



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 5 2009

**SAPPHIRE ENERGY RECOVERY ANNOUNCES
NEW STRUCTURE
– plans include expanding tyre recovery in 2009**

Sapphire Energy Recovery – now fully-owned by Lafarge Cement UK following a buy-out of joint venture shares from Michelin Tyre plc – has restructured in an aim to operate closer to the sources of waste and further improve customer service.

The business has completed a merger with sister Lafarge resource recovery company Glacier, which was dedicated to sourcing alternative raw materials and fuels for the cement business. The Glacier name will go, and the new company will operate across the waste spectrum with one management team.

Headed by General Manager Jamie Randall, the new-look Sapphire Energy Recovery will continue to serve the tyre recovery market, and even has plans for growth despite the current downturn. Thanks to recent new contracts, it expects to process well over 18 million tyres in 2009, a significant increase on previous years' averages of 16 million.

“The joint venture with Michelin provided us with excellent foundations and helped to build a strong and reliable presence in the tyre recovery market which we are very proud of,” said Jamie. “Bringing our other resource recovery activities under the same banner will mean we can join forces and share expertise as we investigate more opportunities for waste recovery in the future.”

Business growth and development will be spearheaded by Business Development Manager, Tim Stott, who has over a decade of experience in the tyre industry and is currently president of the Tyre Recovery Association. “I’m looking forward to taking Sapphire to the next stage of its development, which we hope will come not just in the form of expanded processing capabilities and services but even via acquisitions – it’s an exciting time,” he said.

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Other members of the team include Clive Roberts, Supply Chain Manager, who will lead customer service and supply arrangements, and Commercial Manager, John Pickering who will manage sales and marketing as well as contract management

Martin Stocks, Optimisation Development Manager, recently joined the business from Lafarge Cement's Caudon Works – his role will focus on the use of new alternative fuels and raw materials in cement works and wider technical issues.

Incorporating tyres into the cement manufacturing process makes the most of the energy locked within them and reduces the amount of fossil fuels required - which in turn helps reduce CO₂ emissions.

“The tyre recovery business will remain a core area of business for us, and in fact we want to see it expand,” continued Tim Stott. “Although the cement industry is undoubtedly facing a tough time as the construction downturn bites, it will continue to look for alternative fuels and materials that help reduce emissions and reduce consumption of non-renewable resources.

“We'll also be looking for opportunities to extend the use of processed tyres and other wastes in other areas such as landfill engineering and possibly even construction as we continue to support customers in managing their waste disposal issues.”

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Notes to editors:

Sapphire Energy Recovery

- Sapphire Energy Recovery is a resource recovery business owned by Lafarge Cement UK. It sources alternative fuels and raw materials for use by the cement industry, and carefully manages the introduction and use of such materials in cement kilns around the country.
- Sapphire Energy Recovery provides waste producers with an alternative to landfill or other disposal routes, and cement producers with replacement materials that can turn waste to energy and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. It also provides alternative raw materials thereby reducing reliance on natural resources.
- Sapphire also offers a sustainable solution to the processing of end-of-life tyres in the UK by providing them for use as an alternative fuel for the cement industry.
- Sapphire manages the used tyre supply chain to:
 - facilitate collection of end of life tyres from all sources including wholesalers, vehicle dismantlers and local authority schemes
 - bring tyres to a Sapphire processing centre via a regional collector network
 - produce a specific grade of chipped tyre proven to be the best size for combustion in the cement industry.
- All Sapphire's processing centres in the UK are certified to ISO 14001, registered to the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) and regularly monitored by the Environment Agency.

Lafarge Cement

- Lafarge Cement is part of the Lafarge Group, the world leader in building materials, with top-ranking positions in all of its businesses: Cement, Aggregates & Concrete and Gypsum. With 90,000 employees in 76 countries, Lafarge posted sales of Euros 17.6 billion and net income of Euros 1.9 billion in 2007.
- Lafarge is the only company in the construction materials sector to be listed in the 2008 '100 Global Most Sustainable Corporations in the World'. Lafarge has been committed to sustainable development for many years, pursuing a strategy that combines industrial know-how with performance, value creation, respect for employees and local cultures, environmental protection and the conservation of natural resources and energy. It offers the construction industry and the public innovative solutions bringing greater safety, comfort and quality to their everyday surroundings.