

PRESS RELEASE

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The Japanese environmental sector – a growing market for European SMEs

Second Environmental Technologies Trade Mission to Japan completed

18 European small and medium sized companies from Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and the UK participated in the Environmental Technologies trade mission held in Osaka from 22 to 26 March 2004. The products which were presented covered a variety of environmental technologies and products such as wire meshes, continuous emission monitoring systems, wastewater treatment systems and plants remediation technology of contaminated soil and harvesting heads.

In Japan, the consciousness is rising to achieve the conservation of the living environment, effective resource utilization, control over circulating resource reuse/recycling, and prevention of chemical pollution that has a detrimental effect on human health and the environment. As a result, the environmental technologies sector in Japan is foreseen to increase by 40% up to 2010.

180 Japanese companies from the environmental sector i.e. wastewater treatment, solid waste handling, air pollution control, manure and soil remediation and renewable energy were present at the technical seminar and 94 individual business meetings were held the following days which in some cases led to first draft contracts being drawn up. Furthermore, participants anticipate that within 24 months, business worth over €3 million is going to be created.

Most companies are planning to follow up this event by sending further information and samples, by returning to Japan or by inviting their Japanese contacts to visit their companies in Europe.

The next EU Gateway to Japan event is a trade mission in Tokyo which will be held from 12-16 April 2004 and will bring European SMEs from the Information Technologies sector to Japan. The next Environmental Technologies event from 22-26 November 2004 will include a participation in the WASTEC trade fair in Tokyo.

More information on the EU Gateway to Japan programme and upcoming events can be found under: www.eugatewaytojapan.org

Your contacts at EUROCHAMBRES:

Project Manager: Mr. Dirk Vantuyghem, vantuyghem@eurochambres.be, tel +32 2 282 08 78, fax +32 (2) 230 00 38
Press Contact: Mrs. Catherine Bourdeau, bourdeau@eurochambres.be, tel +32 2 282 08 52, fax +32 (2) 230 00 38