

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Brussels, 31 May 2007**

## **BIR World Recycling Convention & Exhibition Athens, 21-23 May 2007**

### **Shredder Committee: Global shredder population growing**

Technological advances have contributed to the increasing global popularity of the shredder as a scrap processing tool, it was emphasised at the latest BIR Shredder Committee meeting held in Athens.

Jim Schwartz of US-based Metso Texas Shredder noted, for example, wider implementation of gamma ray systems for detecting copper. "There has been a significant increase in these machines since last year," he told delegates. "More than 2 million tonnes of material has been analysed and sold as low-copper shredded scrap." Around a dozen of these systems had been installed to date in America as well as two in Europe, delegates heard.

Another seasoned US-based shredder expert - Scott Newell of The Shredder Company LLC - explained that modern shredder castings were now built to last far longer while computer controls permitted performance levels that were "more efficient than possible with any operator anywhere in the world".

According to BIR Shredder Committee Chairman Jens Hempel-Hansen of H. J. Hansen Recycling Industry of Denmark, the global shredder population stood at around 900 - with many operators looking either to build new machines or to upgrade

existing models. In similar vein, Mr Schwartz observed: "Shredders are in demand almost as never before." Since BIR's 2006 Autumn Convention in Brussels, some 15 to 20 shredders had been installed around the world - including at least six of 6000 HP or higher, he added.

The increasing popularity of shredders in the Middle East was emphasised by Salam Sharif of UAE-based Sharif Metals Ltd. His company was in the process of installing its second shredder and several other companies in the region were mirroring this trend, not only because of the attractiveness of the shredded product to domestic mills but also because of "very short" payback times.

In his report on the activities of the European Shredder Group, its Chairman Anthony Bird of the UK-based Bird Group of Companies suggested: "There is technology on the horizon that will allow us to treat shredder waste in the quantities we want." This biotechnology route yielded a biofuel and methane used to produce electricity, he noted.

ends

*For further information please contact:  
Elisabeth Christ  
BIR Communications Director  
Tel: + 32 2 627 57 70  
e-mail: [bir@bir.org](mailto:bir@bir.org)*