

Press Release 1st of August 2005

Scionix awarded a £1M project from the DTI

Recycling of Electric Arc Furnace Dust Using Ionic Liquids

Scionix has just been awarded a one million-pound project from the Department of Trade and Industry for a proposal submitted under the Collaborative Research and Development technology programme in the technology priority area of waste management.

The project is entitled “Recycling of Electric Arc Furnace Dust Using Ionic Liquids”, is a two year project with four other partners and Scionix acting as the lead co-ordinator for the whole project.

This project aims to neutralise hazardous waste from the steel industry and convert it into useful products. The process will isolate heavy metals, recover useful constituents such as zinc and recycle iron oxide. New ionic liquids will be at the core of this procedure. They are recyclable, environmentally benign and economically viable on a large scale. The partnership of companies will optimise the recovery of metals build a multi-tonne pilot plant and evaluate the process parameters necessary to construct a working plant. The process will eliminate the necessity to dispose of hazardous electric arc furnace dust in landfill sites. The process will be economically profitable because of the reduced landfill costs and the recovery of useful metals.

Dr Khalid Shukri said “this project will revolutionise the way we currently look at metal waste and it will turn hundreds of tonnes of hazardous waste into a useful commercial product”.

Scionix

Scionix Limited is a Joint Venture between Genacys Ltd (subsidiary of Whyte Group Ltd) and the University of Leicester. The company was set-up in 1999 to commercialise the industrial use of a novel class of solvent systems. Scionix is developing business in several areas including metal plating, metal polishing, ore refinery, biocatalysis, cleaning and synthesis.

These solvents, which are known as Ionic Liquids are in effect room temperature salt melts and are highly polar. Among many of their idiosyncrasies is the fact that they do not exhibit a vapour pressure, ie they do not evaporate at room temperature. Furthermore, due to their polarity and ability to complex ions, they also solubilise compounds and salts which normally would only dissolve in highly corrosive or caustic aqueous solutions. These revolutionary solvents are not only cheap to produce and store - but they are also unreactive to air and moisture.

Note to editors: More information can be obtained from Dr Khalid Shukri, Director, Scionix Limited, Marlborough House, 298 Regents Park Rd, Finchley, London N3 2UA, UK, Tel: 020 8371 3905 Fax: 020 8371 3958 (khalid@genacys.co.uk) (www.scionix.co.uk)