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U.S. Supplies Biomass for £100 Million Port Terminal

A new £100 million biomass terminal planned for the Port of Liverpool will see it handle up to three million tonnes of wood pellets a year as part of the decarbonization of Drax power station. The wood pellets – to be shipped to Liverpool from North America – are a by-product of the commercial forestry and saw-milling industry and will provide the Selby-based power station with a new, sustainable low carbon fuel source. In transitioning from coal to sustainable biomass Drax will reduce its CO2 footprint by some 12m tonnes per annum, the equivalent to removing 10% of the cars on the UK roads. All of the wood pellets will be sent to Drax by rail from Liverpool to Selby ensuring there is no impact on the local road network.

The new biomass terminal, which includes a new rail loading facility and storage capacity for 100,000 tonnes will be built by Graham Construction. Mark Whitworth, CEO of Peel Ports, said:

"As a business Peel Ports is investing £300m to create the UK's most centrally-located deep-water container terminal at the Port of Liverpool. "Our new relationship with Drax illustrates the importance of east/west connectivity in driving growth and creating jobs in the north of England. "In addition it shows how globally important assets such as the Port of Liverpool can be used to unlock the potential of the Northern Powerhouse by helping businesses like Drax ensure the security of their supply by putting in place well thought out global supply chains."

Andy Koss, CEO, Drax Power Limited, said: "The biomass terminal at the Port of Liverpool, will enable us to further our ambitious decarbonisation plans and ensure DRAX continues to lead the charge when it comes to creating sustainable, affordable renewable power. "It is important to us that we measure the carbon footprint of every step in our supply chain from harvesting to transportation. By shipping to Liverpool and transporting our biomass via rail, Peel Ports have provided us with a logistics solution which minimises carbon emissions and helps us maintain our low-carbon manifesto." The new terminal is set to open October 2015 and will become fully operational in July 2016.

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