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Spanish recycler Befesa Invests USD 120 Million in Turkey

Istanbul, July 17, 2012 - Spain-based Abengoa, an international company that applies innovative technology solutions for sustainable development in the energy and environment sectors, and Prime Ministry Investment Support and Promotion Agency of Turkey (ISPAT) have jointly announced that Befesa, a leader in the recycling and treatment of industrial residues operating under Abengoa, will set up two plants for steel dust recovery in the Turkish provinces of Izmir and Adana at a cost of USD 120 million.

The press conference held on occasion of the announcement was attended by **Mr. Zafer Çağlayan**, Turkey's Economy Minister; **Mr. İker Aycı**, President of ISPAT, and **Mr. Javier Molina Montes**, Chairman of Befesa.

Befesa, operating in Turkey through a joint venture with Canadian-listed company Silvermet Inc., plans to invest around USD 120 million in total for the construction of two steel dust treatment facilities, each of which will have an annual capacity of 110,000 mt. The plant is expected to employ 130 people directly, and some 330 in total. The facilities will produce over 80,000 mt of Washed Waelz Oxide, a zinc rich final product that will be fully exported. The plant is slated to become operational in the second half of 2014.

Spanish Befesa's investment is significant as the facilities will help recover steel dust, a hazardous residue generated in production of steel from electric arc furnaces, with the safest and most environmentally-friendly methods. Currently, Turkey is estimated to produce around 500,000 mt of steel dust annually. Thanks to Befesa's latest investment, approximately 45 percent of this amount will be recovered.

Commenting on the new investment, **Mr. İker Aycı, President of ISPAT**, said Befesa and ISPAT have been cooperating for the past 20 months, and added: "This investment is of great significance not only in terms of transferring technology, creating employment and contributing to Turkey's exports, but also of bringing in environmental benefits. Befesa has now included Turkey in its list of operational hubs such as Germany, France, the UK, Spain and Sweden. We are proud to attract this investment to our country."

Meanwhile, **Mr. Javier Molina Montes, Chairman of Befesa**, said, "We are glad to contribute to Turkey's sustainable development in the field of recycling and recovery of industrial waste with this investment. I would like to thank **Mr. İker Aycı** and his team for their efforts and contributions to this project from the very beginning in 2011."

