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BANK SUPPORT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF BIOGAS PLANTS BASED ON QUALITY PROJECTS

Referring to the code No 309/2009 body of law - Support of renewable resources in Slovakia - the area to commission biogas plants and other alternative forms of energy production has been opened. Banks have assessed financing of renewable resources as low risk projects due to stable cashflow that is necessary to smooth loan repayments. All this led to the creation of legal entities that run businesses in that area with 15 years state price redemption guarantee which favored bank interest due to low risk for their investments. This study shows importance of project preparation

as an essential step to take before future bank financing approval. Project realization is fully dependent on bank or EU fund support since project budgets reach total value of few millions and more. Thorough project preparation from the side of future investors becomes a priority number one since detailed verification from the side of

future creditor will be performed in relation to total amount of funding and comparison to other forms of financing. Bank will focus their attention on mentioned areas.

Keywords: renewable resources, biogas plant, financial support of the bank

INTRODUCTION

Referring to the code No 309/2009 body of law - Support of renewable resources in Slovakia - the opportunities to commission biogas plants or other alternative forms of energy production has been opened [1, 2]. The law precisely defined the state obligation to secure certain portion of energy produced from renewable resources on total consumption of electricity in EU by 2020 and Slovakia has committed itself to participate as currently main sources of energy were produced mainly from termal and nuclear power plants but also in minor portion from hydroelectric power plants [3]. Banks have assessed financing of renewable resources as low risk projects due to stable cashflow that is necessary to smooth loan repayments.

Market has been opened for new wave of companies doing business in biogas field as this kind of energy was considered by banks as low risk activity since the state guaranteed price redemption. This approach in banking practice is rather exceptional as only few industries offer such a high level of data related to accuracy and reliability of cash flow prediction. Guarantees of accurate prediction of yield are adjusted by the Regulatory Office for Network Industries (URSO) [4], which specifies the conditions for determining the specific purchase prices of electricity produced from renewable resources and after the publication the tariffs are guaranteed for 15 years.

1. BANKS WILL SUPPORT ONLY WELL PLANNTED PROJECTS

Financing of renewable resources depends on many factors coming out of project itself but also on bank attitude. Banks are following their internal credit policy and aligning their decisions accordingly. In most of the cases banks are investigating further described parameters that may identify the weak points or risk sides of the project [5-8].

As one of the key points of bank policy is to conduct business in line with ethical and moral principles, the companies or individuals under suspicion of using of equity that may come from unethical business behaviour are not supported by banks. Among the interests of any bank is also the possibility to approve of or agree with selection of general suppliers since they provide their own fonds, more precisely the fonds of their creditors against whom they have commitments. Further the bank targets the lowest risk of their loan. This is connected with supplier selection of technology as well as product quality, warrant and cooperation. Let's not forget that maintenance and replacement of components will be necessary during the whole period of 15 years so selecting a reliable partner should be one of the interests of any investor rather than just taking its costs into account. The balance of quality and costs seems to be the two factors to consider.

When it comes to any type of project, whether it is a biogas or a photovoltaic one the location is a key factor to consider. In the first case it is the raw material access and its quality together with distance of generated residual heat while in the second case it is the terrain with the highest sun radiation. Both are key elements that impact directly the level of the cashflow which is fundamental for loan instal-ments. Land has to be free from any liens.



Fig. 1. A biogas plant (left) and a photovoltaic power plant (right)

The proceedings are further impacted by raw material substrate that enters the combustion process in a biogas power plant and the quality of photovoltaic collectors in case of sun power plant. A potential client should not be surprised when a bank rejects the financing in the first or second case so careful selection of technology should be the very first step to consider by clients before even addressing the bank with financial participation (support).

1.1. Financial and moral participation in responsibility

The bank will define conditions under which it is willing to finance (if ever) proposed project once all basic parameters are evaluated and reviewed together with all necessary approvals. Further, the bank will define the equity level (amount of the client's financial participation) which their company has to invest before drawndown of loan and that is how they will participate on project risk. Equity is not viewed only as a financial portion of the project but also as a moral participation in responsibility. The level itself is defined by each bank individually in line with their credit policy as well as with the size of the project. The equity level reaches 30% on average[5-8].

Additional requirement that may be encountered during this process is energetic audit worked out by energetic auditor as some banks will not proceed in loan approval process without this document. It combines one or more mathematic models of expected future energy production which helps the bank to make qualified judgment on the expected performance of a project. In the initial phase of energetic project era it was a highly useful tool that helped banks to evaluate prediction of revenues but today we see that there is an increasing amount of projects in this field so the comparison with qualified projects is becoming more and more available.

1.2. Rules to follow by clients

Each investment finance by a bank has to be insured both during the construction period as well as the whole maturity of loan. It results from the risks that may endanger the bank's assets so any insurance claims are always in favour of the bank.

Security of loan is an individual chapter which evolves during the process and depends on several factors. Numbers and forms of security reflect the risk level of investment. Lien of property, particularly land and technology, is one of the standard forms. Further lien of receivables, such as bill of exchange or notarial enrollment are also considered as a form of security.

After the loan approval the client is obliged to respect conditions outlined by the bank such as regular submission of annual reports or in case of any sales of property, there is requested ownership bank approval or/and other specific requirements related to each individual bank.

1.3. Responsiveness balanced by conditions

Banks adapt to the needs of their clients allowing them to design their own payment calendar based on real or expected production levels which fluctuates across the year in line with daylight or real combustion of biomass. This protects the clients from the risk of disproportion between generated revenues and bank instalment payments. Certain banks request to keep reserves on the level of one up to six instalments available on the client's account [5-8.

Banks may as well request establishing of reserve account for maintenance that needs to be reflected in revenue projects. On the other hand, a client has a chance to pay exceptional instalment in case of overproduction or exceptional fonds. However, it is necessary to verify conditions of each individual bank if this operation is free of charges.

Swap has become an additional product that banks are offering to their clients. It allows in the long run to avoid the risk of insolvency to pay back the loan. Banks fix maximum interest rate (for a reward) for a specific loan using swap as a tool to avoid in time of 10 years or more (depends on loan period) overcoming the interest rate threshold. This helps clients to eliminate the risk of reaching the interest rate levels beyond acceptable levels.

Further more, the banks allow the clients to postpone their interest payments which releases the pressure from client's shoulders especially during the initial phase when despite the fact that most of the fonds has been invested, the plant is not connected to power network and thus no cash is generated. Some banks are even willing to finance part of the equity during the loan maturity if the client meets their conditions.

2. ECONOMIC EVALUATION OF PROJECT ENERGETIC EFFECTIVENESS

During the economic evaluation there are several aspects considered in relation to whether the construction of biogas powerplant is a right decision for the future:

- if the investment in a new energy resource will generate incomes high enough to cover possible risks,
- > if the investment itself is the most economic decision.

In general we say that an ideal investment carries no risk, generates the highest revenues and pays back in short period of time. In reality these criteria have contrary effects since high returns are normally linked with high risk. Low risk and high liquid investment brings low returns.

Criteria used for evaluation of investment are:

- a) revenues positive difference between revenues generted during whole period of investment and one time expences related to start up of project together including operating costs during the project lifetime,
- b) riskiness the level of risk associated with expectation of future cash flow availability,
- c) payment period the time of investment transformation between present expenditures and future revenues coming out in cash form during the loan period.

The most important step for economic evaluation of investment is determining the yearly cash flow. The starting point for evaluation of bank acceptance of the project is DSCR table (debt service coverage ratio), which calculates using revenues and costs of the project together with liquidity of investment to meet the obligation related to prospective loan. The DSCR level is preset to minimum 1.2, respectively the volume of cash needed to payback has to be at minimum 120% of the level of total financial costs or, in another words, the client has to operate with reserve of 1/5 of annual budget.

2.1. Responsiveness balanced by conditions

Principal scheme from section 2.2 represents a basic technological process the detailed composition of which needs to be consulted in line with existing technology, present status of biomaterial usage coming from livestock and crop production, mainly taking into account the amount of excrement, corn or silage and existing financial resources.

Model data consider a potential of 500 kWh electric power from biogas plant using livestock and crop substrate:

- a) expectation of number of farmed animals,
- b) expectation of land area.

2.2. Balance sheet, profit and loss calculation, investment planning 500 kWh BPS

Table 1. Total investment project costs in EUR

Year	2011 (1)	2012 (2)	2013 (3)	2014 (4)	2015 (5)	2016 (6)	2017 (7)	2018 (8)	2019 (9)	2020 (10)	2021 (11)
Project costs	2 820 706	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Land	0										
Technological part	2 498 684	0									
Construction part	322 022	0									
Other project costs											
Total project costs	2 820 706	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 2. Financial sources in EUR

Year	2011 (1)	2012 (2)	2013 (3)	2014 (4)	2015 (5)	2016 (6)	2017 (7)	2018 (8)	2019 (9)	2020 (10)	2021 (11)
Total financial sources	2 820 706	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Equity	564 706										
Bank loan	2 256 000										
Total financial sources	2 820 706	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00

Table 3. P&L planning in EUR

Year	2011 (1)	2012 (2)	2013 (3)	2014 (4)	2015 (5)	2016 (6)	2017 (7)	2018 (8)	2019 (9)	2020 (10)	2021 (11)
Operating income	0	701 769	701 769	701 769	701 769	701 769	701 769	701 769	701 769	701 769	701 769
Revenues	-										
from electricity											
sale	0	663 984	663 984	663 984	663 984	663 984	663 984	663 984	663 984	663 984	663 984
from sales											
of heat		37 785	37 785	37 785	37 785	37 785	37 785	37 785	37 785	37 785	37 785
Total revenue	0	701 769	701 769	701 769	701 769	701 769	701 769	701 769	701 769	701 769	701 769
Expences	2 820 706	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cost of	0	218 302	218 302	218 302	218 302	218 302	218 302	218 302	218 302	218 302	218 202
Cost of	0	218 392	210 392	210 392	210 392	218 392	218 392	210 392	218 392	210 392	210 392
material		192 326	192 326	192 326	192 326	192 326	192 326	192 326	192 326	192 326	192 326
services		26 066	26 066	26 066	26 066	26 066	26 066	26 066	26 066	26 066	26 066
repairs Phone.		22 566	22 566	22 566	22 566	22 566	22 566	22 566	22 566	22 566	22 566
mail		500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500
insurance		3 000	3 000	3 000	3 000	3 000	3 000	3 000	3 000	3 000	3 000
Personal expences	0	48 672	48 672	48 672	48 672	48 672	48 672	48 672	48 672	48 672	48 672
Salary											
expences contributi		36 000	36 000	36 000	36 000	36 000	36 000	36 000	36 000	36 000	36 000
ons		12 672	12 672	12 672	12 672	12 672	12 672	12 672	12 672	12 672	12 672
Taxes (property											
tax)		3 000	3 000	3 000	3 000	3 000	3 000	3 000	3 000	3 000	3 000
depreciatio n		178 000	178 000	178 000	178 000	178 000	178 000	178 000	178 000	178 000	178 000
Operating	0	440.044	110.04	110.04	110.041	440.044	110.044	110.044	440.044	140.044	110.041
<i>expences</i> Loan	U	448 064	448 064	448 064	448 064	448 064	448 064	448 064	448 064	448 064	448 064
interests		130 190	116 748	103 212	89 676	76 140	62 604	49 068	35 532	21 996	8 460
Financial expences	0	130 190	116 748	103 212	89 676	76 140	62 604	49 068	35 532	21 996	8 460
Total									100 00 0		
expences Profit	2 820 706	578 254	564 812	551 276	537 740	524 204	510 668	497 132	483 596	470 060	456 524
before											
taxes	-2 820 706	123 515	136 957	150 493	164 029	177 565	191 101	204 637	218 173	231 709	245 245
Net	0	23 468	26 022	28 594	31 165	33 / 3/	36 309	38 881	41 453	44 025	46 597
income	-2 820 706	100 047	110 935	121 899	132 863	143 827	154 792	165 756	176 720	187 684	198 648
Net income +											
depreciati	2 820 704	278 047	288 027	200 800	210.962	201 007	222 702	242 754	254 720	265 684	276 649
on Installmen	-2 820 706	278 047	288 935	299 899	310 863	321 827	332 192	343 756	354 720	303 084	370 648
t payments	0	225 600	225 600	225 600	225 600	225 600	225 600	225 600	225 600	225 600	225 600
dispo Cash -											
flow	-2 820 706	52 447	63 335	74 299	85 263	96 227	107 192	118 156	129 120	140 084	151 048

Table 4. Financial calculation of IRR invested capital

Year	Σ	2011 (1)	2012 (2)	2013 (3)	2014 (4)	2015 (5)	2016 (6)	2017 (7)	2018 (8)	2019 (9)	2020 (10)	2021 (11)
Total revenues from project		0	701 769	701 769	701 769	701 769	701 769	701 769	701 769	701 769	701 769	701 769
Total revenues	7 017 688	0	701 769	701 769	701 769	701 769	701 769	701 769	701 769	701 769	701 769	701 769
Total costs	3 394 266	0	400 254	386 812	373 276	359 740	346 204	332 668	319 132	305 596	292 060	278 524
Installment payments	2 256 000	0	225 600	225 600	225 600	225 600	225 600	225 600	225 600	225 600	225 600	225 600
equity	564 706	564 706	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	6 214 972	564 706	625 854	612 412	598 876	585 340	571 804	558 268	544 732	531 196	517 660	504 124
Dispo CF before taxes and depreciation	802 716	-564 706	75 915	89 357	102 893	116 429	129 965	143 501	157 037	170 573	184 109	197 645
Calculation IRR (FRR/C)	14,87%											
FPV/C – investment by DS 1	427 898	-537 815	68 857	77 190	84 650	91 225	96 982	101 983	106 289	109 953	113 027	115 559
Discount rate 1	1,05	1,05	1,10	1,16	1,22	1,28	1,34	1,41	1,48	1,55	1,63	1,71
B/C ratio	1,13											

EBIT	253 705	253 705	253 705	253 705	253 705	253 705	253 705	253 705	253 705	253 705	
EBITDA	431 705	431 705	431 705	431 705	431 705	431 705	431 705	431 705	431 705	431 705	
installments	225 600	225 600	225 600	225 600	225 600	225 600	225 600	225 600	225 600	225 600	
interests	130 190	116 748	103 212	89 676	76 140	62 604	49 068	35 532	21 996	8 460	
			_						_		
Debt service	75 915	89 357	102 893	116 429	129 965	143 501	157 037	170 573	184 109	197 645	
DSCR	1,21337	1,261011	1,312923	1,369292	1,430718	1,497914	1,571733	1,653205	1,743585	1,844419	

Table 5. Loan calculation - summary

Loan			
Loan amount =	2 256 000	EUR	
Interest rate =	6,0%		
Drawdown from-	1.4.2011		
Payment from -	1.1.2012	Mon.	€ 18 800
Payment period -	10 years		

year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
interest	130 190	116 748	103 212	89 676	76 140	62 604	49 068	35 532	21 996	8 460
instalment	225 600	225 600	225 600	225 600	225 600	225 600	225 600	225 600	225 600	225 600
Rest										
amount	2 049 200	1 823 600	1 598 000	1 372 400	1 146 800	921 200	695 600	470 000	244 400	18 800

Table 6. Loan calculation - in detail

2042		fahmunni	manch	anull		luna	index.			aktahan		daa	Antol
2012	January	a aazaoo	marcn	aprii	may	June	July	august	Sept	OKtober	0.000000	0ec	total
Loan amount	2 200000	2 237200	2 2 10400	2 199000	2 100000	2 102000	2 143200	2 124400	2 100000	2 000000	2 000000	2 049200	420.400
interests	10.000	10 000	10 000	10.000	10 990	10 904	10 010	10 / 10	10 022	10 520	10 434	10 340	130 190
instaiment	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	225 600
payment	30 080	30 080	29 986	29 892	29 798	29 7 04	29 610	29 516	29 422	29 328	29 234	29 140	355 790
2013	january	february	march	april	may	june	july	august	sept	oktober	nov	dec	total
Loan amount	2 030400	2 011600	1 992800	1 974000	1 955200	1 936400	1 917600	1 898800	1 880000	1 861200	1 842400	1 823600	
interests	10 246	10 152	10 058	9 964	9 870	9 776	9 682	9 588	9 494	9 400	9 306	9 212	116 748
instalment	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	225 600
payment	29 046	28 952	28 858	28 764	28 670	28 576	28 482	28 388	28 294	28 200	28 106	28 0 1 2	342 348
2014	january	february	march	april	may	june	july	august	sept	oktober	nov	dec	total
Loan amount	1 804800	1 786000	1 767200	1 748400	1 729600	1 710800	1 692000	1 673200	1 654400	1 635600	1 616800	1 598000	
interests	9 118	9 024	8 930	8 836	8 742	8 648	8 554	8 460	8 366	8 272	8 178	8 084	103 212
instalment	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	225 600
payment	27 918	27 824	27 730	27 636	27 542	27 448	27 354	27 260	27 166	27 072	26 978	26 884	328 812
2015	january	february	march	april	may	june	july	august	sept	oktober	nov	dec	total
Loan amount	1 579200	1 560400	1 541600	1 522800	1 504000	1 485200	1 466400	1 447600	1 428800	1 410000	1 391200	1 372400	
interests	7 990	7 896	7 802	7 708	7 614	7 520	7 426	7 332	7 238	7 144	7 050	6 956	89 676
instalment	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	225 600
payment	26 790	26 696	26 602	26 508	26 4 14	26 320	26 226	26 132	26 038	25 944	25 850	25 756	315 276
2016	ianuary	february	march	april	mav	iune	iulv	august	sept	oktober	nov	dec	total
Loan amount	1 353600	1 334800	1 316000	1 297200	1 278400	1 259600	1 240800	1 222000	1 203200	1 184400	1 165600	1 146800	
interests	6 862	6 768	6 674	6 580	6 486	6 392	6 298	6 204	6 110	6 016	5 922	5 828	76 140
instalment	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	225 600
navment	25.662	25 568	25 474	25 380	25 286	25 192	25.098	25 004	24 910	24 816	24 722	24 628	301 740
2017	ianuary	february	march	anril	may	iune	iuly	august	sent	oktober	nov	dec	total
Loan amount	1 128000	1 109200	1 090400	1 071600	1.052800	1 034000	1 015200	996 400	977 600	958 800	940.000	921 200	totai
interests	5 734	5 640	5 546	5 452	5 358	5 264	5 170	5.076	4 982	4 888	4 794	4 700	62 604
instalment	18 800	18 800	18,800	18 800	18 800	18,800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	225 600
navment	24 534	24 440	24 346	24 252	2/ 158	24.064	23 970	23.876	23 782	23 688	23 594	23 500	288 204
2018	ianuan	fobruary	march	april	24 150	iuno	iuly	auquet	cont	oktobor	20 004	doc	total
	002 400	883 600	864 800	8/6 000	827 200	808 400	780 600	770 800	752 000	733 200	714 400	695 600	iotai
interests	1 606	4 512	4 410	4 224	4 220	4 126	103 000	2 049	2 954	2 760	2 666	2 572	40.069
instalment	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	4 2 3 0	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	225 600
novment	10 000	10 000	02.040	10 000	22.020	10 000	10 000	00.749	10 000	10 000	10 000	00 070	223 000
	23 400	23 312	23 2 10	23 124	23 030	22 930	22 042	22 740	22 004	22 300	22 400	22 312	214 000
2019	January	repruary	march		may	June		august	Sept	OKIODEr	100 000	dec	total
Loan amount	0/0 000	000 000	0.000	020 400	001000	202 000	0.044	0.000	520 400	0.000	400 000	470 000	05 500
Interests	34/0	3 304	3 290	3 190	3 102	3 000	2 914	2 020	2 / 20	2 032	2 000	2 444	30 032
instaiment	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	223 600
payment	22 278	22 184	22 090	21 996	21 902	21 808	21 / 14	21 620	21 526	21 432	21 338	21 244	261 132
2020	january	february	march	april	may	june	july	august	sept	oktober	nov	dec	total
Loan amount	451 200	432 400	413 600	394 800	376 000	357 200	338 400	319 600	300 800	282 000	263 200	244 400	
interests	2 350	2 256	2 162	2 068	19/4	1 880	1 /86	1 692	1 598	1 504	1 410	1 316	21 996
instalment	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	225 600
payment	21 150	21 056	20 962	20 868	20 774	20 680	20 586	20 492	20 398	20 304	20 210	20 1 16	247 596
2021	january	february	march	april	may	june	july	august	sept	oktober	nov	dec	total
Loan amount	225 600	206 800	188 000	169 200	150 400	131 600	112 800	94 000	75 200	56 400	37 600	18 800	0
interests	1 222	1 128	1 034	940	846	752	658	564	470	376	282	188	8 460
instalment	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	18 800	225 600
payment	20 022	19 928	19 834	19 740	19 646	19 552	19 458	19 364	19 270	19 176	19 082	18 988	234 060

 Table 7. Production capacity of electricity

- daily production in kWh	12 720
- monthly production in kWh	381 600
- yearly capacity in kWh	4 579 200

Table 8. Revenues (without DPH) in EUR

- revenue from 1 kWh	0,145
- max. daily revenue	1 844
- max. monthly revenue	55 332
- max. yearly revenue	663 984

Table 9. Cost of goods (without DPH) in EUR

- costs per 1 kWh=	0,0420
- max. daily costs	534,24
- max. monthly costs	16 027
- max. yearly costs	192 326

Table 10. Recap of heat supply to customers

Sales of heat	Annual heat consuption in kWh	Annual heat consuption in kWh /URSO metodology/		Annual variable price of heat in EUR	Annual fixed price of heat in EUR	Total annual price of heat in EUR
Total clients	61 000	137,08	250	29 560	8 224,80	37 784,8

CONCLUSION

The importance of preparing a good quality project is mainly due to the high financial requirements. The projects are almost entirely dependent on financing from banks or from EU funds, as those are the projects totaling several million euros. For this reason the great emphasis that is placed on project preparation of good quality in the field of energy, since verification by future creditors (banks, the EU) will be very detailed with regard to its amount in comparison with other forms of financing.

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WSPARCIE BANKOWE PRZY REALIZACJI INSTALACJI BIOGAZOWYCH NA PODSTAWIE PRAWIDŁOWO SPORZĄDZONYCH PROJEKTÓW

W oparciu o wprowadzone przepisy ustawy nr 309/2009 dotyczące finansowego wsparcia odnawialnych źródeł energii na Słowacji banki wprowadziły mechanizmy dotujące powstawanie biogazowni i innych alternatywnych form produkcji energii. Banki oceniają finansowanie odnawialnych źródeł jako projekty niskiego ryzyka. Artykuł wskazuje na znaczenie prawidłowego przygotowania projektu jako istotnego czynnika przy podejmowaniu decyzji przez bank co do przyszłego finansowania przedsięwzięcia. Realizacja projektu jest bowiem często uzależniona od wsparcia kredytowego banku lub finansowego w ramach dotacji UE. Rzetelne przygotowanie projektu przez przyszłych inwestorów staje się więc działaniem priorytetowym.

Słowa kluczowe: odnawialne źródła energii, instalacje biogazowe, finansowe wsparcie banków