

Press release

Event in Verona from 28 February to 2 March

PELLETS, VAT REDUCTION TO 10% CONFIRMED SIGN OF CONFIDENCE FOR THE BIOMASS SUPPLY CHAIN GREEN TRANSITION, STARTUPS, NEW TECHNOLOGIES AT PROGETTO FUOCO, THE FUTURE OF HEATING

The 5 startups that will compete for the Startup Award have been selected. Raul Barbieri, Veronafiore sales manager: «Politics have launched a positive sign of attention to the wood and biomass energy sector, which is worth 4 billion euros in Italy and involves 14 thousand companies.»

Verona, 26 January 2024 – With the green light on the Budget Law, the reduction of **VAT to 10%** on the sale of **pellets** for the first two months of 2024 has been confirmed. With a special funding of 21 million euros, the government has thus followed up on the demands of the entire heating sector, which had been asking for recognition of the positive effects of the measure already in effect throughout 2023. The measure not only meets the needs of the many Italian families who use pellets to heat their homes in the middle of winter and who will therefore not see an increase in spending, but also those involved in the biomass heating supply chain, who, thanks to the price containment, can now look forward to the coming months with confidence. A supply chain that is preparing for the **Progetto Fuoco** event, the world's most important trade-show for the sector, scheduled to take place at Veronafiore **from February 28th to March 2nd, 2024**. The focus of the event is not only renewable and carbon-neutral energy sources, but also innovation, with **5 startups** that, as part of the **Innovation Village**, will be presenting the best technological solutions to take the heating sector into the future.

«Politics have launched a positive signal of attention to the wood and biomass energy sector, which is worth 4 billion euros in Italy and involves 14 thousand companies,» says **Raul Barbieri**, Veronafiore sales manager. «The entire supply chain, that goes from the forest to the fireplace, is ready to gather at this new edition of Progetto Fuoco, which will be brimming with insights and content, and will intercept all the sector's innovative stimuli by focusing on the latest technologies and the sector's ecological transition.»

There has been considerable urge for action on rates related to the pellets trade in recent weeks, especially from **Aiel (Italian Agroforestry Energy Association)**. The association, a partner of Progetto Fuoco, hopes the measure will now become structural in order to provide greater transparency to the market and more security for

sector operators, as well as to contribute to the transition process away from fossil fuels.

«We are satisfied with the confirmation of 10% VAT on pellets for the first two months of 2024, especially considering the reduced financial margins with which this Budget Law had to deal,» explains **Annalisa Paniz**, director general of Aiel. «Maintaining the rate will avoid a further burden on Italian families' energy expenditure. Moreover, according to our talks with the Financial Police, with whom we maintain intense collaboration in the fight against tax evasion, tax avoidance and carousel fraud, the measure is essential in helping to bring the underground market to the surface.»

Progetto Fuoco Innovation Village

From pellets made of recycled coffee grounds to new solutions for producing syngas from residual biomass. 5 startups, plus a special project, have been selected to exhibit in Progetto Fuoco's **Innovation Village**, an area where the most significant innovative companies will explain their ideas and present their products to potential partners and investors. All 5 startups in the Innovation Village will participate in the «Give Me Fire - Progetto Fuoco Startup Award», the prize - sponsored by Progetto Fuoco and Blum in collaboration with Aiel - awarded to the technological solution deemed to have the greatest impact by a jury of experts. The purpose of the award is to help small, innovative entrepreneurial companies enter the market quickly by putting them in contact with large companies in the biomass heating industry. The startups will compete in pitch challenges, i.e., short presentations in which they must demonstrate the validity of their product and answer questions from the jury and audience as quickly and brilliantly as possible.

The selected startups

BiStems - www.bistems.com

A startup that develops oxygen-steam gasification technology which produces high-quality syngas from residual biomass. The gas produced has a high concentration of hydrogen and an extremely low concentration of nitrogen, making it ideal for conversion into biofuels or renewable chemical bases without intensive downstream upgrading processes.

Goojob – www.goojob.it

A portal through which the user, after registering, can find a craftsman or professional, by means of advanced filter and property geolocation systems, select one by browsing the companies' showcase pages, price lists and user reviews, and book using the calendar.

Iridenergy – iridenergy.com

An innovative polygeneration system that enables the thermochemical decomposition of even very wet biomass (grass cuttings, brushwood, digestates, sludge, agro-food waste), surpassing the most popular technologies currently on the market. It

outclasses the concept of cogeneration by expanding it to polygeneration (biochar, electricity, heat, green hydrogen).

Rcoffee – www.rcoffee.it

Pellets made from coffee grounds recycled from plastic and aluminium capsules mixed with a small percentage of recycled wood. The process of extracting coffee grounds from the capsules has been patented by partner company WhiteStar, which ensures that all the elements in the capsule composition are properly recycled. The product will have a higher heat value than traditional wood pellets.

Firewell – firewell.de

Made by the German company SiO2 Ventures, this additive is added to the combustion process that reduces particulate pollution and is accompanied by an app that, thanks to integration with artificial intelligence, guides the user through the entire combustion process.

iNEST – www.consorzioinest.it

The special project selected for Progetto Fuoco's Innovation Village, iNEST aims to define a new paradigm of the Northeast Innovation Ecosystem, based on multi-usability; the ability to generate added value through an integrated and interconnected approach, thus overcoming the risks of fragmentation; networking with a partnership-based approach.

Progetto Fuoco 2024

From stoves to fireplaces via boilers, barbecues and wood and pellet stoves, **Progetto Fuoco**, the sector's benchmark event, is running its engines at full speed and is confirmed as an international moment of reference for the presentation of new products. In addition to the exhibition aspect, conferences, workshops, startup pitches, practical demonstrations and training opportunities. Progetto Fuoco asserts its role as a privileged platform for exchange and updating on biomass heating systems, while still remaining highly business-oriented.

- **Progetto Fuoco**, scheduled from February 28 to March 2, 2024 at Verona Expo Centre, is the most important international event for the wood combustion heating and energy generation industry
<https://www.progettofuoco.com/>

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