

# Leading the way with green CNG



Philip Hoare, national service manager, Goscor Lift Truck Company, showing the quick coupler for CNG refuelling on the specially converted Doosan forklift.

Goscor Lift Truck Company (GLTC), part of the Imperial Group, is taking a leadership role in the development of an important energy efficient product for forklifts – Compressed Natural Gas (CNG). The company has a few specially converted Doosan forklifts at selected sites and is monitoring their progress.

GLTC national sales manager Patrick Barber says there are several advantages to CNG and its green effects are more far reaching than energy saving alone.

Some of these advantages include:

- Renewable and clean energy source
- Cleaner burning and reduced emissions (Less CO, NOx, HC, and PM)
- Extended engine life
- Create jobs via conversion workshops & CNG Filling stations
- Consistent quality/energy content
- Carbon credits
- Eliminate theft e.g. with reference to diesel, petrol, LPG, etc.
- Reduced health/safety risk
- Dual fuels (Petrol & CNG) can be utilised

So important is the need to investigate and develop alternate sources of fuels, the South African National Energy Development Institute (SANEDI) has introduced a Green Transport programme and supports several initiatives in this country including CNG. "It is not only cost effective to switch to alternate fuels such as CNG, but the widespread up-take of these technology applications, will also stimulate the green economy and over time foster traction in a new industrial sector and job creator," says SANEDI's Senior Manager for Business Development, Derek Batte.

Meanwhile the rollout of CNG distribution continues unabated. The 'mother' station in Langlaagte, Johannesburg has a capacity

of 1,5-million gigajoules. A second mother station will be established with an alternative source of methane to supply Gauteng, followed by further mother and filling station distribution networks in Gauteng, Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal. This will be spread to the Cape regions as the company expands its infrastructure.

A spokesman for the CNG group says that the use of CNG results in a 75% reduction of particulate matter and confirms that it will also offer crucial cost reductions of between 20% and 30%, depending on the fuel source substitute.

Barber says that GLTC is optimistic that CNG will become a viable alternative in the not too distant future. "A 'green' approach to business is no longer a 'nice to have' but an absolute necessity. The need to protect our planet, and the central means of how to do that, are now incontrovertible and any responsible company, and especially those which have fuel-using products, would do everything in its power to comply.

Continuous innovation with regard to environment-friendly products is crucial to future business and CNG is one of those solutions showing enormous promise. We are carefully monitoring our CNG trials and will have no hesitation in undertaking a significant rollout if the results are as we expect," he concludes.

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