

## **ELETTROAMBIENTE AND HITACHI METALS HAVE SIGNED A COOPERATION AGREEMENT FOR DEVELOPING WASTE TO ENERGY PLANT USING THE PLASMA TORCH TECHNOLOGY**

Rome, June 25<sup>th</sup> 2002 - Paride De Masi, CEO of Elettroambiente – ENEL Group, and Tetsuo Kai, Managing Director of HITACHI METALS, have signed in Tokyo a Cooperation agreement in order to develop the Plasma Technology for Waste to Energy plants.

The Cooperation agreement between ELETTROAMBIENTE and HITACHI METALS foresees the technical information exchange and reciprocal assistance. In particular both companies will support each other in order to develop new projects together with WESTINGHOUSE PLASMA CORP. USA, the torches supplier.

The Plasma Torches destroy, at high temperatures, the organic component of waste producing a clean syngas suitable for the production of electricity. The inorganic component of waste becomes a vitrified solid residue, suitable for civil applications. This technology allows to dispose municipal, industrial and special waste and to utilize biomasses with a process that assures the absence of toxic and harmful emissions.

The production of electricity utilizing Plasma Torch is the best solution in terms of Efficiency and Environmental Balance.

**ELETTROAMBIENTE** is the Enel Group's company which operates in the waste to energy field and in the Biomasses and Biogas plants' management. It promotes innovative technologies at very low environmental impact.

**HITACHI METALS Ltd**, a Japanese company operating in the waste disposal sector, has considerable experience in the design, construction and operation of municipal waste to energy plants, in particular the ones utilizing the Plasma Technology.