

Overall Analysis

There are several areas in which these case studies have highlighted further areas for analysis. Foremost is regards to risk, uncertainty and funding. Those companies who had capital were not so affected by the ability to achieve funding, however, the debt aspect is still being capped by banks at approximately £30million. Andy Wood of Heliuss highlighted how this adds considerably to the costs as they have experienced with one of their other plants, which has required a six-bank consortium and this has also added financial implications in the delays incurred as a consequence of a more drawn out process.

It appeared from carrying out the interviews that all technology surrounding biomass is still perceived as a risk or more accurately as 'innovative' and therefore a risk venture for financial borrowing institutions and this also impedes projects going forward, as is highlighted in several of the case studies.

All of the projects were initiated as a consequence of government legislation, however, this has also been a major burden or stumbling block. Many of those interviewed expressed how the government changes in legislation do not take into consideration that projects (regardless of technology) will take at least four years from conception through to completion and consequently (albeit) minor changes in the subsidies or acts can have serious adverse consequences moving forward. Also expressed by some of the participants was the need for policy to do more now and not to be so cautious given the targets to be achieved and by educating the public more opposition (for example food vs. fuel debate) may not further impede their ability or willingness to commit.

Finally, although all of the companies expressed a desire to be environmentally aware, they all highlighted how ultimately, they are still business ventures and need to make a profit and this is often forgotten with regards to renewable energy technology start-ups and the aid provided.