



MEDIA RELEASE

Waste to Wing project first to enable sustainable aviation fuel production in South Africa

Amsterdam, May 23, 2018 - Airlines are facing increasing pressure to become more sustainable, yet options to reduce carbon emissions in aviation are limited. Electric planes for example are not foreseen to have a significant share of passenger movements before 2040. Besides efficiency gains, through technical and operational improvements, the use of sustainable aviation fuels as an interim measure is key to significantly reduce carbon emissions in this industry. However, to date, sustainable aviation fuel has not been available on a commercial scale in South Africa, or Africa as a whole.

To address this challenge, a consortium of the enterprise development specialist Fetola, the World Wide Fund for Nature South Africa and SkyNRG (global market leader in sustainable aviation fuel supply and development) are launching the Waste to Wing project. A first of its kind in the country, the project will determine the feasibility of using waste biomass to produce sustainable aviation fuel in South Africa.

The consortium will pilot the development of 25 micro, small and medium sized enterprises who will supply the raw material or feedstock. The project will demonstrate the workings of pre-treating the feedstock and converting it to sustainable aviation fuel. This will be the first step towards a local sustainable aviation fuel industry.

A strong requirement and guiding principle of the Waste to Wing project is that the fuel should conform to the Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials' sustainability standard. The intention is to develop a fuel sector that promotes food security, biodiversity, and water, land and labour rights.

Waste to Wing has the financial support of the European Union's Switch Africa Green Programme of € 1.2 million. It will also look at sharing key learnings with other African Countries.

Head of WWF's Policy and Future's Unit Saliem Fakir: *"WWF is delighted to be part of this pioneering project that has huge industrial potential and which will be catalytic in shifting South Africa's aviation sector towards a low carbon trajectory. We look forward to this opportunity to use our convening power to bring all relevant stakeholders together for the common goal of developing Africa's first alternative aviation fuel value chain and ensuring it conforms to the highest standard of sustainability."*

CEO of Fetola Catherine Wijnberg: *“Fetola’s reputation is built on growing the economy and creating jobs, by building businesses that last. The Waste to Wing programme provides us an opportunity to drive meaningful impact in a whole new value chain. Fetola will develop and build capacity within 25 SMEs to be reliable and commercially robust suppliers in an internationally strategic industry.”*

CEO of SkyNRG Maarten van Dijk: *“We are very proud to be included in the ongoing development of sustainable aviation fuels in South Africa. After supplying South African Airways and Mango with sustainable aviation fuel in 2016 through the Solaris project, we are eager to take the next step and start developing local production capacity in the region together with WWF and Fetola,” says Maarten van Dijk, CEO SkyNRG.”*

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About Fetola



Fetola, based in Cape Town, has a ten-year track record in supporting the long-term success of small and medium sized enterprises across a range of sectors and in all nine provinces of South Africa. Fetola’s unique style and proven methodology is designed to build responsible, empowered and confident entrepreneurs who are equipped to weather the challenges of growing a business in today’s economy. Fetola’s Enterprise and Supplier Development programmes have successfully transformed hundreds of emerging businesses, enhancing their long-term success as qualified suppliers and as independent businesses in their own right. The long-term survival rate (tracked over ten years) of Fetola-led programme participants is 87.4%, three times the national average. www.fetola.co.za

About WWF



WWF is one of the world's largest and most respected independent conservation organisations, with almost six million supporters and a global network active in over 100 countries. WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the earth's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by conserving the world's biological diversity, ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption. www.wwf.org.za

About the European Union and Switch Africa Green



SWITCH Africa Green Phase II is an EU funded programme jointly implemented by UN Environmental Programme and EU in 7 countries in Africa. The overall objective of SWITCH Africa Green is to support countries in Africa to achieve sustainable development by engaging in transition towards an inclusive green economy which has the potential to generate growth, create jobs and reduce poverty. The objective will be achieved through support to private sector led inclusive green growth. The specific objective is to develop green business entrepreneurship and the use of green economy and SCP practices by having in place (i) better equipped businesses and (ii) conditions in form of clear policies,

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sound regulatory frameworks, incentives structures and tax and market-based instruments in targeted sector(s). Selected countries (Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mauritius, Kenya, South Africa and Uganda) have developed and are currently implementing national and local SCP programmes and/or national green economy policies and strategies. The Phase II of the programme builds on the achievements and learnings of Phase I also funded by the EU and implemented by UN Environmental Programme together with UNOPS and UNDP.

About SkyNRG



SkyNRG is the global market leader for sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), having supplied over 25 airlines on all continents. SkyNRG sources, blends and distributes SAF, guarantees sustainability throughout the supply chain and helps to co-fund any price premium versus conventional jet fuel. At the same time, SkyNRG focuses on developing regional supply chains that offer a real sustainable and affordable alternative to fossil fuels. SkyNRG has its operations RSB certified and is structurally advised by an independent [Sustainability Board](#) in which WWF International, European Climate Foundation, Solidaridad Network and the University of Groningen hold a seat. www.skynrg.com