

Firm generates foreign interest

By Tim Saunders

tim.saunders@bournemouthcho.co.uk

A PIONEERING engineering company is manufacturing equipment that reduces waste and creates green electricity.

Already working with Formula 1 teams, it is now attracting foreign interest.

AeroThermal, which employs 10 staff in Poole, has developed and built a pre-treatment process that can divert 70 per cent of the rubbish from landfill.

Known as the Autoclave system, a single unit can process a 30-tonne batch of waste in two hours.

Managing director Ian Toll said: "AeroThermal has provided design and manufacture of large process systems for over 30 years to clients such as Airbus, Boeing, the MOD and 80 per cent of Formula 1 teams.

"With the increasing awareness of environmental issues, the company decided to use its process expertise to develop waste handling systems which treat the materials as an as-yet untapped resource rather than a problem."



HANDS ACROSS THE OCEAN: Ian Toll, managing director of AeroThermal, shakes hands with the Mayor of Velez-Malaga, D Francisco I Delgado Bonilla. Also in the group are Spanish government officials, bankers and technical experts

Spain has heard about the system, which costs in excess of £150,000.

The Mayor of Velez-Malaga, D Francisco I Delgado Bonilla, has visited the company with a view to purchasing the technology so that the Costa del Sol and Velez-Malaga can be greener.

The autoclave acts like a steam pressure cooker, rendering material sterile.

Food, paper and packaging are reduced to their basic form.

Once the pressure cycle has completed and all disposable

waste has been reduced, steam is released and converted back to water without any adverse gases being released into the atmosphere.

By applying a sorting process, metals, plastics and glass can be recycled and reused. When the remaining material is subjected to anaerobic digestion - a further natural process - it yields biogas which is converted into green electricity.

Some of this electricity is used to power the plant and the remainder can be sold back into the national grid.