

Case Study: **vykson**[™]

About vykson

www.vykson.com

Developed the world's first Waste Fuel Turbine Engine purpose designed and built for green power generation.

Specialise in generating power from low quality fuels that other engines cannot achieve.

Presently operate from high quality gas down to 12% methane with no pilot fuel.

James Oakley is a man with vision. Way back in the 1980s, before it was topical, he was looking at ways to develop renewable fuels and is today the MD of Vykson, a company specialising in the development and production of small turbine engines that convert low quality waste fuels into electricity.



Turning the thorny issue of landfill and household waste into a positive, Vykson is able to continue to use the gas emitted from landfill sites long after conventional engines cease to run. In layperson's terms - as the quality of the gas given off diminishes, so does the ability of traditional engines to continue to generate electrical power. The Vykson innovation takes over at this point, using the existing infrastructure and continues to convert the gas instead of it being vented or flared out to the atmosphere - both of which are harmful to the environment.

There are other markets open to Vykson in addition to landfill - these include gas from disused coal mines, sewage gas, digester gas from cattle slurry and other low quality waste as well as various biofuels. The opportunities are full of scope but also require hard work to research them and develop a strategy for maximising the potential of each.

Vykson has all the technical know-how. Working with top experts and Queens University, Belfast, and led by James, the company is in safe hands for development. What it was lacking was further manpower to help with the focus and direction to capitalise on the commercial opportunities and take the business successfully into such a competitive arena.





To fill this gap, James approached First Flight, a company dedicated to the placement of investing Non-Executive directors. James knew he wanted some support in a commercial role - someone with a business head, financial acumen, an understanding of the technology and, preferably, an investor who would back up their interest in Vykson with a financial commitment.

Chris Spencer-Phillips and Chris Brigden of First Flight produced a short-list of 6 names whom James met

with and interviewed until he found Matthew Hives who fitted the bill perfectly. "It was much more than a question of finding an investor" explained James. "I was very keen to make sure the chemistry, relevant experience and understanding was there, that's really important" he finished.

Matthew is now a fully fledged member of the team, working hard to drive the business forward, helping with project management and business planning. He has experience in the engineering sector although not directly with renewable fuels. Vykson's projects, however, are ground breaking and new to most.

Matthew's commitment to Vykson was underpinned by a sizeable investment made in the business. This strengthens his position with the Board and demonstrates his belief and enthusiasm for the projects they have in the pipeline. His time with Vykson is not quantifiable to James as he spends time working with him and the team as well as other time he devotes to Vykson.

The next stage for Vykson is to complete some reliability proving and raise further funds on the back on that success. When the time is right, they will consider VC investment, banks and private investors and possibly further Non-Exec involvement. Together, James and Matthew are working on a business plan that will propel them forwards once they are ready to go to market.



About First Flight

UK company specialising in:

- **Non-Executive Directors**
- **Investing Non-Executive Directors**

Largest active candidate database with entrepreneurs and ex directors of blue chip companies

We are the only UK Company focused solely on providing Chairmen and Non-Executive Directors

We have placed 100 Non-Executive Directors into 80 companies to date

We aim to provide a high quality shortlist within 3 weeks

**Chris Spencer-Phillips
MD, First Flight**

