

BASF complex waste calls for professional and flexible partner

The semi-finished products and fine chemicals produced by BASF, one of the largest multinational chemical groups, are applied in almost all possible market segments. After Ludwigshafen in Germany, the BASF Antwerp plant is the largest European production site with as many as 54 product facilities and 3 500 employees. BASF Antwerp, also a shareholder in Indaver, has been using Indaver's waste processing services since 1987. Annually, Indaver manages about 8 000 tonnes of hazardous and non-hazardous waste on behalf of BASF. To achieve this, Indaver not only uses its own facilities but also European treatment facilities that it has in its portfolio. Dr. Sabrina De Beukeleer and Christof Brees of the Environment, Waste and Data Management division explain why Indaver is one of their preferred partners as regards BASF's critical waste package.



Sabrina De Beukeleer

Christof Brees

BASF Antwerpen ©

A high degree of flexibility is an added value

An international network creates opportunities

Clear expectations

BASF Antwerp is known for its 'Verbund', in other words the maximum integration and interconnection of the different production installations whereby end or by-products of one installation constitute the raw materials for the other. This also generates several waste streams. A professional waste contractor who meets a number of requirements is necessary for this type of waste. BASF is looking for sustainable solutions but always without risk. In addition to the environmental aspect, the economic dimension is also important. A high degree of flexibility is required in order to dispose of varying volumes of different types in the short term. Transparency and open communication are indispensable here. Again and again, Indaver proves that it is the right waste expert for BASF.

European network

At first Indaver was strongly focused on its own Antwerp facilities. Today, a wide range of European solutions – in both its own and external facilities – effectively complement the Indaver installations in the port of Antwerp. BASF considers Indaver's investments in and knowledge of foreign processing plants as a significant added value. This ensures that the customer is always presented with the best solution. Thanks to this European network, BASF is sure to propose Indaver as a potential waste processing partner to its foreign counterparts at other European BASF sites.

In close vicinity

The fact that both BASF and Indaver are established in the port of Antwerp is an additional advantage in ensuring flexible service provision. For BASF, the Antwerp facilities are an important outlet and can even be used as a backup when external installations are shut down or in a first (start-up) stage during which the waste still appears to be fluctuating in terms of quantity and consistency. In addition, administrative charges are minimal, since there is no need to draw up export files. Indaver guarantees production continuity, which is obviously vital for BASF.

Opportunities within the partnership

BASF values the good service provision and personal contacts. Communication takes place efficiently and with a fast response time. As for Indaver, having to continuously look for improvements to keep the partnership dynamic is a challenge. Indaver has proved that it can contribute to the customer's design process, even in the production chain, in order to reduce waste volumes and offer more sustainable processing solutions. BASF, in turn, advises Indaver to take an even stronger stance as regards its material and energy recovery policy. By pursuing a win-win situation both parties will reap the benefits of their collaboration.



Contactperson

Steve Schrauwen
Key Account Manager
tel: + 32 478 88 17 58
steve.schrauwen@indaver.be

Is Indaver a raw material supplier for BASF?

With the FISCH – Flanders Initiative for Sustainable Chemistry – project, the chemical sector organisation Essenscia Flanders is one of the pioneers in the New Industrial Policy of Flanders. Five consortiums of companies, among which BASF and Indaver, are currently working on concrete innovation projects to give Flanders a leading role in the field of sustainable chemistry, such as:

- Microalgae to replace fossil fuels in the production of high-quality products like cosmetics, food and fuels, for example;
- The development of waste and secondary streams: chemical building stones can be recovered from domestic and industrial waste. The production of chemicals from secondary streams also offers potential.