

Sound and reliable solutions for critical waste flows

Indaver's cooperation with Tessenderlo Chemie, also one of its industrial shareholders, goes back to the days when Indaver was founded in 1985. At its plants in Tessenderlo and Ham, Tessenderlo Chemie produces semi-finished products intended for various, everyday life applications, such as batteries, paper, animal feed, specialised fertilisers, and water treatment. These production activities generate a number of complex waste flows for which Indaver offers reliable solutions. At the beginning of 2009, the service level focusing on processing was extended to a Total Waste Management (TWM) contract. What were for Tessenderlo Chemie the changes resulting from the implementation of TWM? Environment Manager, Richard Gielen and Production Engineer OCD/Glycine, Johan Wellens shed some light on the matter.



Richard Gielen - Johan Wellens

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Single Point of Contact for processing

Full-service supplier with sound treatment solutions

The need for a Single Point of Contact that offered sound treatment solutions was the decisive factor in opting for a TWM cooperation. Before that Tessenderlo Chemie had always had different waste management partners. However, processing, administration and communication were fragmented as a result. The various production departments as well as the environmental service felt the need to work together with a single partner who offered this efficiency, continuity and transparency. Following comprehensive benchmarking, Indaver proved to be the right partner for the dangerous waste produced by Tessenderlo Chemie.

In addition, Indaver conveyed a strong sense of trust and flexibility. What's more, Indaver's rotary kiln in Antwerp acts as an important backup when the Tessenderlo Group's own facility in France shuts down. Due to the complexity of the waste products, the partnership is always a common learning process in which strong know-how and close consultation are crucial. This has also proven to be the case in the dismantling of one of the mercury electrolysis plants, during which the problems relating to mercury bearing waste were tackled jointly, which has resulted in an environmentally-friendly and cost-efficient demolition process. In other words, a real win-win partnership.

Service and a great feeling of responsibility

Tessenderlo Chemie values Indaver's sense of initiative and dynamic project approach. The "pull role" that Key Account Manager Sonja Verboven takes on results in a full waste management service as regards Tessenderlo Chemie. In case of problems or where new process flows are at play, intensive cooperation takes place, which involves active consultation above all.

Thus, in a recent sludge dewatering project for instance, joint research was carried out as to which

chemical pre-processing was possible to minimize leaching from the filter cakes. This pre-treatment had important implications in terms of cost, the environment and safety. Indaver is convincing because of its involvement, its flexibility and in-depth knowledge of the waste market. Furthermore, the whole data management takes place in complete transparency with clear reports, documents and a single monthly summary invoice by waste product. Tessenderlo Chemie can therefore focus on its core business and safely entrust all the waste management to Indaver. The complete chain monitoring, on which Indaver focuses so strongly, receives much support. For Tessenderlo Chemie this also constitutes an important consideration as it constantly seeks to avoid liabilities.

Constant challenges to achieve sustainability

The dangerous waste products of Tessenderlo Chemie offers limited possibilities for processing. Nevertheless, Indaver continues to challenge itself, in consultation with Tessenderlo Chemie, to always use the most environmentally-friendly and optimally priced solution. In this respect, Indaver's Outlet Management plays a vital role as it regularly and thoroughly carries out sample-based screening. The logistics are organized in a lean way with local partners in order to prevent unnecessary transport or container costs. Only the resources with an added value for Tessenderlo Chemie are deployed.

The results are discussed in all openness and guidance is provided to the project on a step-by-step basis. Naturally, not only are these measures environmentally-friendly but also cost-saving for Tessenderlo Chemie. With its sustainable processing solutions for complex, hazardous industrial waste, Indaver proves to be a sound partner to take on the waste problems and requirements that Tessenderlo Chemie faces daily. Much thought is therefore being given to a possible extension of the partnership in the future. ■

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