

# Not enough space for a sugar house extension? - No problem for the VKT!

The refined-sugar VKT that has been commissioned in the Cosumar sugar refinery in Casa-blanca, Morocco, is yet another example of how VKTs can be used successfully for refined sugar as well. Although eager to see the VKT being put into service, the customer had also remained somewhat sceptical. But within 30 hours after commissioning, he was convinced that he had been absolutely right in opting for the installation of this VKT. After 30 hours, all items of the equipment were not only operational - but most of them had also already been optimised. The quality of the sugar downstream of the centrifugals surpassed even the high expectations of Cosumar.

It was due to the excellent preparations and the extremely well-trained Cosumar staff that commissioning proceeded so smoothly and within such a short time. The product has a good quality, which remains constant from one batch to another. Since the VKT is operated continuously and under automatic control, the refinery staff only have to perform monitoring functions.

Like almost all other VKTs, this unit is installed outdoors so the walled-in space for the sugar house could be minimised. A VKT with a capacity of 200 tons of refined-sugar massecuite per hour (including staircase and main piping) takes up a space of only nine by nine metres, which does

not have to be walled in or roofed. A connection between the control centre and the staircase, which are at the same level, gives supervising and operating staff quicker access to the VKT. Customised solutions are sought to link up the VKT with the existing piping system and equipment.

Practical examples of the past few years demonstrate that VKTs are suitable not only for any kind of product, but also for climatic conditions. Whether temperatures reach -30 °C, as in Hokuren's Nakashari factory in Japan, or +50 °C and over as in the United Sugar plant in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, the VKT always operates to the customers' complete satisfaction. The experienced BMA engineers make sure that the specific local conditions are adequately accounted for, and the ideal solution is then sought in close collaboration with the customer. BMA's customers can thus be certain of buying a continuous vacuum pan that, in terms of its size and throughput, but also in terms of the dimensions and arrangement of its piping system and fittings, is designed to perfectly match the given process conditions and that can, moreover, also be easily operated. The customised staircase provides for easy access to the VKT for monitoring and control purposes.

With a height of 31 metres, the 4-chamber VKT affords an excellent view of most parts of the factory premises. If the VKT of a sugar refinery is located near a port, the view from this high vantage point is particularly spectacular - this is at least how the author of this article feels. Maybe there is a spare minute or two immediately after plant commissioning that can be enjoyed just watching the hustle and bustle of a busy port. But visitors to the factory, too, can use the view from this height to get a general impression of the whole factory area.

*Jörg Schmidt*



*Example of cramped*

*installation conditions*