Commissioning at The Amalgamated Sugar Company, USA

In 2011, The Amalgamated Sugar Company (TASCO) in Idaho commissioned various projects of the modernisation programme for their three sugar factories, which were implemented in collaboration with BMA. Starting at Nampa, one continuous VKT vacuum pan, one OVC cooling crystalliser, and three continuous K3300 centrifugals for low raw massecuite as well as three K3300 machines for high raw massecuite were put into service at the beginning of July 2011. Massecuite pumps and one molasses-massecuite mingler also formed part of the supplies. All machines were commissioned in quick succession during the thick juice campaign. Within just a short time the stated guarantees for a molasses purity of less than 60 % were reached, so the customer decided that they did not need a time consuming performance run. The VKT and the OVC have been given a prominent position directly next to the main entrance, where they can be seen from afar as the factory's new landmarks.

Next, the Twin Falls factory commissioned a complete sugar drying and cooling plant in August 2011. This plant consists of a drum dryer and a fluidised-bed cooler, as well as ancillary equipment, such as a filter. The plant has a capacity of 50 t/h, and the sugar is dried to a moisture content of less than 0.03 % and cooled to a temperature of less than 30 °C. The plant was commissioned as scheduled to TASCO's fullest satisfaction. The performance run in December 2011 fulfilled all expectations and produced outlet moistures and temperatures that remained clearly below the guaranteed values.

In November 2011, one high raw and one low raw VKT, and two low raw OVC cooling crystallisers were commissioned in the sugar factory in Paul, Idaho. The two OVCs are connected in series. The supplies for this factory, too, included various massecuite pumps and a molasses-massecuite mingler. The high raw VKT is rated for a throughput of 91 t/h, and the low raw VKT for 36 t/h. The molasses purity is thus reduced to less than 60 %. The equipment was commissioned in parallel with the campaign service and without interrupting the production process. Within a few weeks, the new installations fulfilled TASCO's expectations.

Thanks to extensive training and intelligent control concepts, the factory staff in all three factories became quickly familiar with the new process technology. The success of the project is not least due to the excellent team work of TASCO and BMA staff during all phases of the projects. BMA is very proud to have contributed to these projects as TASCO's partner. BMA's technological competence and process know-how, in addition to equipment supplies, are important contributions to a successful partnership.

Hans Schmidt

Commissioning

the VKTs in Paul