

German-Chinese cooperation for a new cane sugar factory in Bolivia



*Laying the foundation stone
in Bolivia*



Project meeting

Following more than one year of negotiations, a contract for an 8 x 59 m diffuser with a capacity of 7,000 tcd was signed with our Chinese partner CAMC Engineering in Beijing.

CAMC will act as general contractor for a Chinese state-funded project for the construction of a cane sugar factory in Bolivia. This is new ground for China, whose only experience in the sugar industry is with cane mills but has none with sugar diffusion. However, the global structure of the BMA Group allowed CAMC to close this gap of experience: staff from BMA Brazil accompanied the CAMC representatives during an extended tour of Brazil, which gave CAMC deep insight into the production methods of the Brazilian sugar industry. The advantages and disadvantages of various manufacturers' concepts could be identified, and sugar cane diffusers were found to be increasingly replacing the traditional cane mills there, which is why CAMC opted for a BMA diffuser.

The partners involved – CAMC Engineering, BMA AG and BMA China – will cooperate on the design, manufacture, and installation through to commissioning. It was agreed to divide the manufacture, with the key components fabricated by BMA AG. Further components will be manufactured by BMA China and quality-controlled by BMA AG. CAMC will supply all the steel structures and other elements. This division safeguards not only the quality and ensures adherence to the budget, it also fulfills the project financing conditions regarding the Chinese share in providing supplies for the project.

This project actually serves as a model in that it is an opportunity to provide equipment to customers who would otherwise have little access to modern technology. It is also a classic example of how international cooperation with the BMA Group benefits investors and plant operators.

Dirk Meyer