ABB Constructs Benchmark Plant

Client: Owens Corning
Location: Apeldoorn, Netherlands
Scope of Work: Detailed engineering, procurement and construction management

As a manufacturer of glass-based non-woven products for industrial use, Owens Corning needed more production capacity. With first-hand knowledge of ABB’s equipment and technology, they chose ABB to handle total construction of the plant, from start to finish.

“ABB offered us a total EPCM concept at a very competitive price. All we have to do is turn the key to start production,” said Wim Weeres.

“Owens Corning is happy to see ABB’s flag flying next to the flag of Owens Corning at the entrance gate,” said Jan Orie.

Wim Weeres
Project Manager
Owens Corning

Jan Orie
Plant Manager
Owens Corning

Owens Corning was eager for their new plant but reluctant to strain their resources by undertaking project management, engineering, safety supervision, construction management and supply. They gave ABB full responsibility, with the certainty that the current construction project would serve as a benchmark for all future projects for Owens Corning worldwide.

With their new plant extension in Apeldoorn, Netherlands, Owens Corning aimed to double the capacity of their existing plant for manufacturing glass-based non-woven products for industrial use. However, Owens Corning knew that their resources would be taxed by the need to oversee engineering, procurement and construction.

Owens Corning has first-hand experience of ABB’s quality, reliability and innovation. Their existing plant uses ABB motors and drives, and they are impressed with ABB’s specialized knowledge of “through air drying” technology. Because the new plant involves some unique technology, they preferred to continue working with a supplier who was familiar with their process. But for this new plant, ABB went a step further. ABB offered to take responsibility for the total scope of supply, including engineering, procurement and construction management (EPCM).
ABB has served as EPCM contractor in many industries and in locations throughout the world. However, unlike other EPCM contractors, ABB can provide major equipment, specialist services, technology know-how and project management.

The vendors for this project came from many sources within ABB and from companies around the world. ABB is creating a single interface between all subsidiaries and third-party vendors, coordinating activities and issuing purchase orders for civil, mechanical, electrical and instrumentation installation, equipment and services. ABB is also providing safety supervision. The result is a strong positive working relationship among all the parties, including Owens Corning, based on standardization, clear communications and a focused set of priorities.

In its role as a supplier of industrial equipment and controls, ABB is providing Owens Corning with the feed stock preparation unit, dryer, multi-drive system, instrumentation and electrical components. The feed stock preparation unit makes all the mixes for the production line and is a separate turnkey element handled entirely by ABB.

To date, ABB has met every milestone on the project, building the plant without accidents, within budget and on schedule, from the pouring of concrete to the ordering of the fabrication line and installation of equipment.

“Owens Corning is happy to see ABB’s flag flying next to the flag of Owens Corning at the entrance gate,” says Jan Orie, Plant Manager at Owens Corning.

ABB’s activities span management, human resources, and supply issues; and greatly reduce the pressures on Owens Corning’s own resources—a savings in time, money and man-hours. The smooth and efficient pace of construction has confirmed Owens Corning in their decision to expand the plant in Europe and rely on ABB.

In fact, Owens Corning considers this new plant expansion a benchmark for future projects with Owens Corning worldwide.

For more information visit us at:  
www.abb.com/chemicals  
email: chemical.info@us.abb.com