ABB Wins SEK20 million Order for Quality and Control at Vida Paper

New systems modernize paper production at Lessebo Mill

ABB, the leading power and automation company, won a SEK20 (USD2.60) million order for new quality and efficiency-enhancing systems at Vida Paper's Lessebo Mill in southern Sweden. The new systems will modernize all of the mill's paper production and further improve Lessebo's productivity and quality.

"Vida Paper produces fine papers in a market where there are high demands for quality and service. You have to have the best equipment to make production as efficient as possible and to secure the quality of the paper for our customers," said Lars Rosén, CEO Vida Paper AB.

To meet these requirements, Vida Paper invested in new automation systems to monitor and control their paper production and provide quality control. By adding a new induction calliper actuator for thickness control the mill will obtain a broader paper path and, as a result, increase paper machine production capacity.

ABB will replace the old quality systems on two of Lessebo's three paper machines with two OCS systems based on 800xA technology that have new Network Platform measuring platforms. The systems include features to manage and control the paper properties that are important to Lessebo, such as grammage, moisture, thickness, colour, formation and ash content.

"The exchange of new quality systems means that we will be able to measure much better and thus be able to make our quality and colour transitions much faster. We make about 1,000 conversions per year, and this saves much time and waste," said Rosén.

For management and control of the mill's entire paper operation, ABB will install an Industrial IT 800xA automation system. The system will be integrated with existing controllers for two of the machines while the PM1 will be installed with new 800xA controllers. This means that there will be a uniform system structure and operator environment for the whole paper mill which will facilitate information flow and access throughout Lessebo.

ABB will install thin clients that will also make it possible to access production information via the mill's office network.

Start-up of OCS systems in the mill's first two paper machines will take place this summer.

Nalco Wins Second Pennsylvania Governor’s Environmental Excellence Award

Nalco, providing essential expertise for water, energy and air, announced recently that its Ellwood City Plant has been named a winner of a 2009 Pennsylvania Governor’s Award for Environmental Excellence. It was the second time in three years the facility was acknowledged for its environmental efforts.

The plant was recognized for three continuous improvement projects that have reduced its environmental impact:

- A plant-wide, focused waste reduction effort identified seven actions that reduced plant waste by 3.74 million pounds.
- An engineering redesign of the cooling system for the plant's most energy intensive process reduced peak electrical usage by 375,000-kilowatt hours per year. The change saves 228,4 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions a year, a two percent reduction in facility's total greenhouse gas emissions.
- A cross-functional employee team identified opportunities to rework inventory, eliminating nearly 150,000 pounds of waste.

"Nalco is committed to helping our customers operate more efficiently, saving water and energy and improving air quality while also reducing their total cost of operations. We follow those same principles in our own operations as well, constantly looking for opportunities to improve our processes and reduce water and energy use, cut waste and decrease air emissions, including greenhouse gases," said Dave Filtman, Nalco Executive Vice President and President, Water and Process Services.

Nalco was one of 35 businesses and organizations recognized for by the state for adopting "environmentally friendly practices and technologies."

Nalco is the world's leading water treatment and process improvement company, delivering significant environmental, social and economic performance benefits to its customers. It helps its customers reduce energy, water and other natural resource consumption, enhance air quality, minimize environmental releases and improve productivity and end products while boosting the bottom line. Together its comprehensive solutions contribute to the sustainable development of customer operations.

Nalco is a member of the Dow Jones Sustainability World Index. More than 11,500 Nalco employees operate in 330 countries supported by a comprehensive network of manufacturing facilities, sales offices and research centers to serve a broad range of end markets. In 2008, Nalco achieved sales of more than $4.2 billion.