

FOULING PREVENTION IN A BLACK LIQUOR HEATER

INDUSTRY: PULP & PAPER | CUSTOMER: ASIAN P&P COMPANY | LOCATION: ASIA

ISSUE

Fouling disrupted the black liquor evaporation process and led to decrease in production efficiency and output, as well as increase in energy consumption.

- The temperature of the black liquor after the heater needs to be at least 150 °C to maintain an efficient production process, however, the temperature was difficult to maintain due to the decrease in heat transfer efficiency caused by fouling.
- The amount of extra energy needed to be increased with fouling, as more and more steam needed to be fed into the pipe to maintain production efficiency.
- Scaling issues of the black liquor was a major bottle neck in maintaining process efficiency.
- · Decrease in the flow rate of liquid was a clear sign of fouling.

Without a properly functioning heater the whole process stops

SOLUTION

Multichannel solution installed with multiple COD belts.

The transducers were attached to the inlet pipe upstream to the heater to induce sonocrystallization effect as a fouling prevention method.

RESULTS

- More stable flow rate and overall improvement of flow rate over 5 %.
- While sonication was on, temperature stayed stable and stayed around 150 °C. When sonication was stopped, temperature could not be kept at 150 °C.
- Steam valve opening degree remained below 80% during sonication for over 8 weeks, meaning no extra steam was required to maintain original production efficiency – without sonication the opening degree reached 100% in 4 weeks.



€500K / YEAR WORTH OF PRODUCTIVITY ENHANCEMENT



€235K / YEAR
WORTH MORE
OPERATION UPTIME



€480K / YEAR SAVINGS IN ENERGY COSTS



Altum's COD (Clamp-on Device) with ultrasonic transducers



OVER 400 TONS OF CO2 SAVED PER YEAR



Over 1 650 000 kilometres driven by an average gasoline-powered passenger vehicle



OVERALL BENEFIT

EXCEEDS

€1M PER YEAR