

FOULING PREVENTION IN A CRYSTALLIZER

INDUSTRY: MINING & MINERALS | CUSTOMER: MINERALS PROCESSING COMPANY | LOCATION: FINLAND

ISSUE

The issue in this particular case was a common one: due to scaling issues in a DTB crystallizer, the process had to be stopped every five days to wash the crystallizer with hot water. This process took approximately one day per stoppage, leading up to over 70 days of lost production annually. The crystallizer formed a clear bottleneck in the process: when it was not able to receive the process liquid, it had to be fed back to the previous process stage. If the crystallizer was out of order due to, for example, a washing period or reduced capacity caused by fouling, some tonnages were even lost completely. The goal was to lengthen the production cycle and reduce maintenance stops by preventing scaling.



SOLUTION

In this case:

- Multichannel solution attached on crystallizer.
- Ultrasound works through creating microscopic vibrations on the inner surface of the equipment to prevent or detach the foulant.
- Sonication done with alternating power and multiple channels to ensure an even ultrasonic field and vibration.

RESULTS

- Time between maintenance breaks increased by 100%, from 5 to 10 days.
- The added 35 days of uptime increase end product production by 1100 tons a year.
- Increased energy and operational efficiency: Clean equipment consumes less energy, allowing the process to operate optimally





€1M+* / YEAR WORTH
OF PRODUCTIVITY
ENHANCEMENT



100% INCREASE
IN PRODUCTION
CYCLE DURATION



3 MONTHS
INVESTMENT
PAYBACK TIME