

# Full service at all levels



Dirk Verbeek

Dirk D'Haese

Founded in 1919, the Belgian family-owned company Niko has grown into the market leader in electrical switch gear, light control and home automation. Together, the production plant in Sint-Niklaas and the site in Wijnegem employ some 570 people. The cooperation with Indaver goes back to the 1990's, but Niko has been in a Total Waste Management Partnership with Indaver since 2005. This means that Indaver ensures the treatment of the complete waste package (1 000 tonnes of hazardous and non hazardous waste) and manages the logistical and administrative aspects. Dirk D'Haese, Environmental Officer and colleague Dirk Verbeek, Supervisor Warehousing at Niko Sint-Niklaas explain why Niko is today still convinced that selecting Indaver as waste contractor was the right choice.

## Full service provider with strong treatment solutions

Until a few years ago, Niko was working with a number of different waste partners. Yet, the need to work with one central partner who could meet all the waste treatment requirements was being increasingly felt. Indaver appeared to have the infrastructure, systems and the right attitude in that respect. Niko's scope of waste products calls for treatment solutions that include the guarantee of absolute destruction on the one hand, and recycling applications on the other, for the plastics streams among others. With its own facilities and expertise, Indaver was the right match. Following a shredding operation, the grate incinerators at Indaver's Doel site thus meet the destruction requirement for confidential products. Indaver's closed circuit is also of great value. The full compliance implemented by Indaver gives Niko full confidence in its waste partner. Indaver's years of experience and expertise come into play with respect to treating waste plastics. A more permanent solution has been found as a result, according to which waste products like polycarbonate, polypropylene and the plastics mix resulting from thermal treatment are diverted to recycling. Thanks to Indaver's access to private facilities in conjunction with its knowledge of external outlets, Niko was provided with the Best Available Technology at competitive prices.

## Strong involvement gives confidence

In addition to complete treatment solutions, Niko greatly appreciated the high degree of transparency and workability of the e-reporting. In fact, this tool made it

possible to achieve significant time savings and take care of all administrative aspects. Consequently, more time was freed up for the actual production, which is the priority of any business. Again and again, Niko experiences the benefits of having a fixed contact. The entire Indaver team stands out because of its positive attitude, enthusiasm and expertise. For example, after a recent external audit, the safety adviser commented: 'The way Indaver and its driver deal with the transport of dangerous goods is noteworthy and can serve as an example for many other companies.' This strong commitment results in a dynamic partnership characterised by consultation and confirms once more that Indaver was the right choice. The second production site in Wijnegem was persuaded to sign up to the TWM project in 2008, also giving Indaver full responsibility for the complete waste package treatment.

## A proactive approach

A number of optimizations were developed during the years of partnership. This contributes significantly to the full service that Indaver provides to Niko. It has led to the simplification of logistics through bulk disposal and leak-proof containers for the filter cakes. By introducing new presses and containers with electric control and ventilation system, sufficient attention was also paid to the safety and ergonomics of the Niko employees. For its part, Niko has also invested heavily in upgrading its waste management by covering most of the container park with asphalt to create a more sustainable, safer and cleaner workplace. Furthermore, a separate containment was provided there for the leak water that is directed to an oil/water separator. Together with Indaver, work was always

performed according to the Waste Collection Plan (AIP) and Environmental Charter (Voka) adopted by Niko. The waste treatment takes place very efficiently and any difficulties are avoided thanks to Indaver's proactive approach. Indaver's professionalism makes sure that the overall picture is right.

**i** Contact person:  
Nicolas Coppens,  
Project Manager  
Mobile + 32 478 88 18 05

“A professional partnership in a pleasant environment”

“Dynamic approach leads to important optimizations”