

A trusted partner for Solvic Lillo

Earlier this year, Indaver was able to extend into a new long term agreement its Total Waste Management (TWM) partnership for the four Belgian Solvic sites. The Solvic Lillo plant in the Port of Antwerp produces annually about 5 000 tonnes of non-hazardous and hazardous waste resulting from the production of basic chemicals such as chlorine, hydrogen, caustic soda and sodium hypochlorite solution. Indaver has been providing Solvic with waste treatment services ever since its inception in 1987, and over the years these services have expanded into a total service. Additionally, after a benchmark study, a campaign was launched in 2010 for salt sludge for which Indaver again proved to be the right partner. Sabine Thabert, engineer, Environmental Coordinator and Head SU Products Quality Assurance and her colleague Rob Wattelé, Assistant Production Supervisor, explain to us how they see the cooperation with Indaver.



Sabine Thabert Rob Wattelé Yolande Gabriels

A competent all-round waste specialist

The technical competence of the Indaver employees, including Project Manager Christine Verkinderen, specialists in waste legislation and the drivers has not gone unnoticed. The expertise in all waste-related issues is an important added value and a determining factor in Solvic's choice of the right partner. On a daily basis, Solvic experiences the passion and commitment that are manifested by a rapid response, full regulatory compliance and a high degree of flexibility. The fact that this cooperation has now grown into a real trusted partnership is, among other things, proof of the open communication in which everything can be negotiated. In addition, the audit results of external processing centres are openly explained so that Solvic is always kept informed of the final destination of its waste. Indaver always seeks actively a solution to urgent questions or problems, even if these fall during a difficult period such as weekends or holidays. This is the kind of professionalism that makes the TWM project a real success.

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“Always open and honest communication with resolute action.”

“Unique technical competence and transparency in price structure.”

“Exceptional flexibility and commitment.”

Innovative and transparent solutions

Indaver has been responsible for the whole waste package of Solvic Lillo since its early years and has gradually built up a good knowledge of the site and the associated needs. When tenders were invited in 2009, Indaver landed the contract again thanks to strong processing solutions and a proven data management system. Following a price consultation Indaver implemented optimisations in the operational and logistical organisation. As a result, the best and most durable technology was put forward for all the waste streams. A dedicated on-site operator is responsible for the weekly full inspection tour. He is responsible for managing the container

park and the filling grade of the various containers scattered on the site. Solvic also considers the Master Table as a valuable tool. In fact, all waste related data is characterised and catalogued and always up to date. The transparent cost structure adopted by Indaver, including an extensive cost breakdown and customised billing, is greatly appreciated by Solvic. The clarity and accuracy in administrative handling such as export files, public administration and e-reporting constitute an important full service. Indaver understands the customer's burden of responsibility for its waste and therefore takes waste management very seriously.

Sludge dewatering project at Solvic Lillo

Important and complex salt sludge flow

The Solvic Lillo site includes a brine tank with a capacity of about 8,700 m³. This is where rock salt, a material necessary for the production process, is deposited. The salt sediment is contaminated with metals and sulphates among others and accumulates over several years in the saturation tank. This residue must eventually be removed in order to safeguard production. There was a need for an efficient working method and a solution therefore had to be found last spring. Following a call for tenders, Indaver, because of its competitive prices and broad expertise, stood out as the strongest party for the processing of the sludge. Departing from the previous solution, which involved draining the water from the tank in order to leave the layer of sediment to harden and excavators and cranes to break it down and extract it, a more sustainable, safer and more cost-effective sludge dewatering project was started.

A safer, sustainable and cost effective approach

In cooperation with a reliable partner the water in the tank is kept liquid with the help of a pump. The liquid residue is then pumped into huge 'big bags'. The water then seeps out through the big bags and only the solid sludge cake remains

in the bags as result. The purified water is collected and pumped back into the tank. After three weeks, the cake is fully cured with maximum pressure build-up and air reduction as a result. The total volume of sludge is about 4 000 tonnes. Samples are later taken on site and then analysed by Indaver. This has resulted in significant cost saving. Indaver's expertise, know-how in processing and active consultation combined with a great deal of enthusiasm and commitment constitute great added value for Solvic. Based on the results of the analyses, the sludge is released and pre-treated physicochemically or not before it can be disposed of at Indaver's landfill facility. The increased safety is an advantage: indeed, cranes are no longer required to dig 10 m deep into the tank, with a lot of ensuing damage. Double transport or delays have been eliminated and replaced by a direct and rapid disposal system. The new approach is also more durable because the brine is preserved. The brainstorming, consultation and advice, sampling, ... everything happens in an environment of open communication. The result: Indaver has Solvic's unlimited trust when it comes to such projects.