Pakistan goes green with first RDF production plant

Pakistan: The Fauji Cement Company Ltd, Islamabad, has ordered Pakistan's first RDF production plant. In 2007, German company MVW Lechtenberg started to analyse the possibilities for the production of refuse derived fuels (RDF) from municipal solid waste (MSW) in Pakistan, with a focus on the availability, quantity and quality of the landfilled waste.

In a three-step plan, a complete system for the use of RDF from MSW in the existing 3700t/day clinker plant of Fauji Cement has since been developed. More than 500t of MSW are delivered every day to the uncontrolled dumpsite at Rawalpindi. Waste is often blown off by the wind or eaten by animals. Landfill sites run in this way, with no regulation, have no safeguards to avoid the contamination of soil, groundwater and air by hazardous materials.


Dirk Lechtenberg (left), director of MVW Lechtenberg, greets Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Malik Iftikhar Khan, CEO and managing director of Fauji Cement, in front of shredding equipment rotor shafts.

Fauji Cement decided to use the high calorific value fraction of the MSW, and called upon MVW Lechtenberg to develop a system for the separation of this fraction and further processing into a fuel. Further, the effects of co-firing RDF on the clinker and on the environment were calculated.

The concept developed by MVW Lechtenberg showed exceptional environmental and social advantages. Fauji Cement has now placed an order for a complete RDF System, including sorting, processing, dosing and kiln-feeding. MVW Lechtenberg is also providing all services for the supervision and start up of the RDF substitution project, including RDF quality control and clinker quality, as well as the calculation of the project's environmental benefits (carbon credits).

The system has been developed for the production of around 100,000t/year of RDF, with the possibility of extending the capacities for the new 7200t/day Polysius clinker plant.

Pakistan exports up 134%

Pakistan: According to the All Pakistan Cement Manufacturers Association (APCMA), cement dispatches in Pakistan for the fiscal year to January 2008 were down 1.3% per cent year-on-year to 2.1Mt, while local sales were down 19.2% and exports up 134.0%. Exports were up 48.5% month-on-month to 0.6Mt during the month of January 2008, compared to 0.4Mt in December 2007.

Exports are expected to increase in March-April 2008 once the winter subsides and the logistical issues for export to India are resolved. Coal prices, coupled with low dispatches in December 2007, have led to lacklustre result expectations for the second quarter of 2008. Construction activities are expected to pick up over the coming months, with political uncertainty and high coal prices remaining key risks.

Dalmia to double capacity

India: Dalmia Cements Bharat Ltd (DCBL) will be doubling its production capacity to 12Mt/year by the end of the next fiscal year, by commissioning three greenfield projects. Puneet Dalmia, the company's director, said: "The work in three projects coming up at Kadapa (Andhra Pradesh), Ariyalur (Tamil Nadu) and Cuttack (Orissa) is progressing well. These projects will help increase our capacity from current 5.5Mt/year to 12Mt/year."

The Kadapa plant (2.25Mt/year) and Cuttack plant (2.25Mt/year) would commence production in September 2008, while the Ariyalur project would go on line by March 2009. The company says that it has invested over US$500m in these projects.

In view of the huge demand in the domestic market, the additional capacity would be utilised to cater to markets in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Orissa, Western Region and Jharkhand.

Asian News in Brief

India: Chennai-based India Cements intends to return to the dry-bulk shipping business, five years after pulling out of shipowning. The company wants to acquire a fleet of handysize and handymax bulkers to gain greater control over its transport costs. The company expects to soon finalise a deal to acquire a handymax and aims to have at least 10 handysize bulkers of 30,000-40,000dwt capacity by 2011-2012.

India: JK Cement has registered a 60% jump in net profit at US$20.3m for the third quarter of 2007 (ended 31 December 2007), compared to US$12.7m in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal. The total income of the Delhi-based firm increased 22%, reaching US$98.6m for the quarter, against US$80.6m in the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

India: Ultratech, one of India's largest cement producers, has reportedly bought two cargoes of South African coal at around US$143/t. Traders commented that coal stocks available for sale at some ports have dwindled and high cement demand has propelled manufacturers back into the market for spot tonnes.

Japan: According to the Japan Cement Association, cement sales in Japan fell 3.1% in 2007 from the previous year to 55.83Mt. The drop is blamed largely on the introduction of tougher building regulations in June 2007, aimed at to ensuring earthquake resistance.

Pakistan: LV Technology has been awarded a Euro3.8m contract in Pakistan by Mustehkam Cement. The order includes machinery, equipment and engineering for raw meal grinding and cement grinding.

Sri Lanka/India: India's UltraTech Cement, part of the Aditya Birla Group, is reportedly planning to acquire the Kankesanthurai cement plant in Jaffna, Sri Lanka. The plant, which has a capacity of 0.5Mt, has been closed for over 17 years.

Thailand: According to Roongrote Rangsiyopash, chief financial officer of Siam Cement, the company – Thailand's largest industrial conglomerate by revenue – plans to invest up to US$2bn between 2008 and 2010. The planned investments will expand its cement, petrochemical, and paper businesses at home and overseas.