

Modernizing a Non-NEA-Mill Strengthens the Market Position of the Danish Limestone Specialist

How did you first come into contact with NEUMAN & ESSER GmbH Mahl- und Sichtsysteme?

Thomas Koudal Maul: When the project started, Faxe Kalk A/S worked closely together with the technical experts at the Lhoist Group HQ in Limelette, Belgium. Through our colleagues there, contact was established with NEA. The first meeting was held in Übach-Palenberg in Nov. 2006.

Before NEA was assigned to retrofit the existing roller mill, NEA carried out grinding tests in its own test center. Which requirements did the NEA pendulum roller mill have to fulfill?

ed by NEA. At commissioning, *Kurt Fronert* carried out all the adjustments on NEA's mill feeding control unit in cooperation with the Faxe Kalk A/S electrical staff, setting timers, set points and alarm levels in the mill PLC.

Which parts of the scope were designed according to the NEA standard?

Most of the mechanical parts have been exchanged by the design of NEA standard. Electrical installations and the automation system were designed according to Faxe Kalk A/S standards, using the NEA proposal as basic platform.



Successful grinding tests were carried out on Dec. 15, 2006 with 3 t of limestone. The NEA pendulum roller mill with a radial classifier could easily achieve 99% < 30 µm for a throughput of 2.1 t/h Rollovit and 95% < 120 µm with 5.7 t/h Filler. Exactly the requirements for later production under real conditions.

Why didn't you turn to your former supplier for this retrofitting project?

The quotation from NEA was much more comprehensive with lots of technical details and well presented by *Wolfgang Palm*, After Sales Manager Roller Mills. NEA should dimension the entire system and make detailed drawings for internal use as well as for the external suppliers. Further, NEA would also be responsible for the final CE marking of the new mill installation.

Can you specify the scope of supply assigned to NEA?

The general idea was that NEA, besides retrofitting the existing mill, should deliver all the main components such as radial classifier, air fans, filter, cyclone, instrumentation, compensators and mill control unit. Furthermore, NEA should make installation plans and more detailed drawings of the ductwork to produce these parts locally. The on-site installation at Faxe Ladeplads was done by a local company and supervis-

Regarding NEA engineering skills, do you remember any brilliant feats of engineering that came to your attention while this order was being handled?

In general I have experienced high standards from NEA. Durability, low maintenance costs and easy operation are all crucial to Faxe Kalk A/S. Mechanically the components from NEA and their sub-suppliers have performed well, and the overall quality seems to be very fine. A brilliant feat was the design of the ductwork, as filter and cyclone had to be installed 35 meters above the mill.

A visit to the NEA workshop and test center in Übach-Palenberg shows that NEA is as a well-organized company. The technical documentation supplied for the installation as well as the final documentation are very useful and comprehensive.

How much lead-time did NEA have for retrofitting the mill? Have they delivered on schedule?

The mill was picked up in Belgium on Feb. 6, 2007, and sent straight to NEA. The mill was delivered in Faxe Ladeplads in mid June. This was according to the time frame. The entire installation was finished on time, but due to different mechanical problems of the original shovel system and the bevel gear during the start up phase, final start up and hand over to production was delayed a few months.

What were the circumstances that helped NEA handle this order given such a short lead-time?

Two things helped NEA get this order finished on time. On the one hand, NEA retains a large stock of spare parts so that all parts could be taken directly from stock. On the other hand, NEA's large-scale expertise in rebuilding and modernization was reflected in this project.

How would you evaluate the cooperation with NEA GmbH?

It was a good experience. During the project in Faxø Ladeplads, we saw that the will and know-how to support us was always there. When we experienced problems, NEA always took the problems seriously and did their best to help us quickly. I personally appreciated being involved in every step of changes required - right from the beginning.

What is the supply rate of this system today?

The mill installation gives us flexibility in production at our limestone plant. One important thing for Faxø Kalk A/S is that the mill system performs at 100% when demand for products is high. Besides giving us extra capacity for our base products, the mill has made it possible for us to make new products. We have introduced a new Rollovit product, a 70 µm product, which enables Faxø Kalk A/S to meet a larger part of the market for limestone products.

What is your vision for Faxø Kalk A/S?

With the flexibility we have seen on this system - two different feed materials and up to now three different products out of the system - we are, of course, discussing if we should produce a wider range of products on the mill system.



Thomas Koudal Maul
Process Specialist, Faxø Kalk A/S

Faxø Kalk A/S

- Located in Faxø Ladeplads, DK
- Founded: 1884
- Member of the Lhoist Group since 1996 (with 7,000 employees world-wide)
- Sales revenues in 2008: 197 mio. DKK (26.5 mio. EUR)
- Number of employees: 82
- Products: lime, hydrated lime, ground limestone
- Applications: agro, soil treatment, water and sludge treatment, flue gas treatment, aggregates, chemistry, industrial fillers, construction, steel and paper
- More details under: www.faxekalk.dk

Interview conducted by
Martina Frenz, Marketing Manager and
Wolfgang Palm, After Sales Manager Roller Mills

