

EDC cracking furnaces

Another successful project



In the past three years the UK's Fired Heater Division has successfully designed and supplied four specialist fired heaters for cracking ethylene di-chloride (EDC), an essential feedstock for the manufacture of vinyl chloride monomer (VCM) and PVC.

These four furnaces have been won under fierce competition and all were built within very tight schedule constraints. The latest of these projects was for Sasol's VCM plant at Sasolburg in South Africa.

The client's managing contractor, Uhde, commented:

'We achieved mechanical completion of the Foster Wheeler EDC Cracker today, 13 October 2004, with the client at VCM.'

"I would like to thank you all for the valuable time and effort spent on reaching this milestone. Your assistance and support as a team both from head office disciplines and management through to construction supervision and management are greatly appreciated in the interests of the VCM project."

"May I also express special thanks to Chris Alayan of Foster Wheeler who was instrumental as part of our team effort for actioning all related erection, design and construction queries in such a professional manner that contributed to the above being achieved. Thank you and well done to all."

The project, which was completed on schedule, was executed with the close co-operation and assistance of our South African Operations, headed by Mark Meyer.

The heater was pre-fabricated into modules off-site using local contractors in the Sasolburg area and transported to site during July 2004 for final erection, which was carried out using local labour.

Foster Wheeler is a world leader in EDC furnace technology, design and supply. As well as supplying new furnaces, our Fired Heater experts offer specialist services for the refurbishment and upgrading of existing furnaces which have reached the end of their original design operating life.

"I am proud of the performance of our entire team, as well as Chris Alayan, the project manager. We've again proven that we can successfully bid and then execute a full lump sum turnkey project, including local fabrication and site erection, safely and on schedule."

Steve Hoskins
Divisional Director, Fired Heater Division, FWEL