

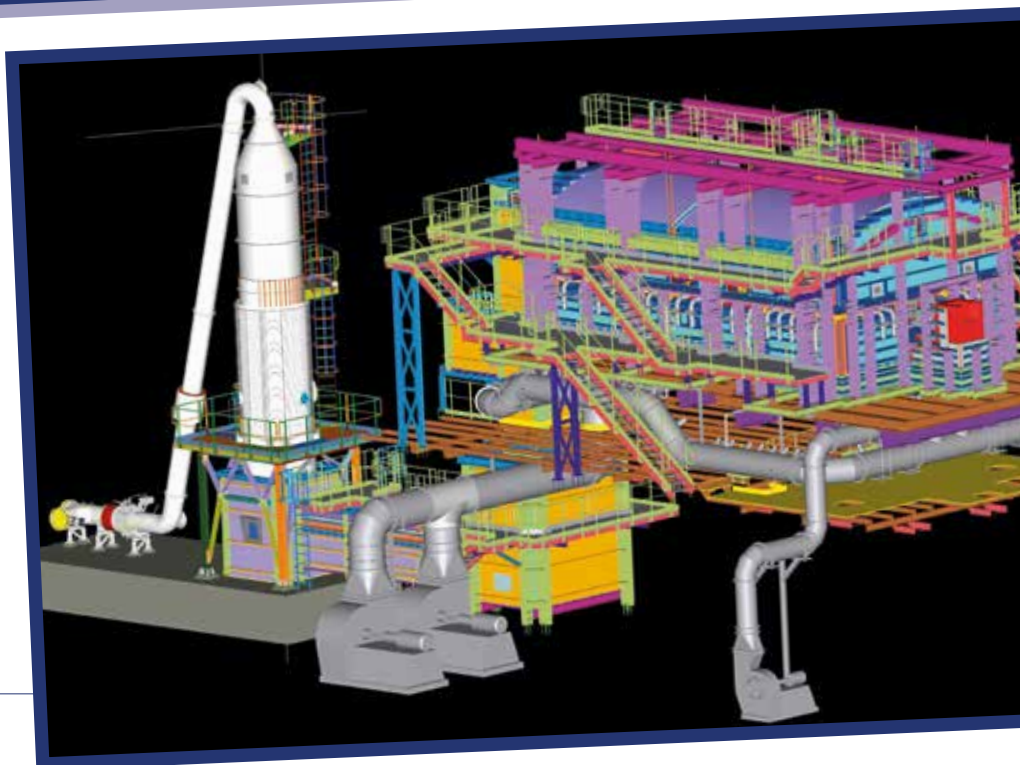
SooSeok chooses STARA GLASS furnace for sustainability and performance

Incorporating both its stellar oxygen combustion technology and hydrogen fuel capabilities, STARA GLASS collaborated recently with Soo Seok Group of South Korea to design a high-capacity furnace for pharmaceutical-grade glass production.

South Korean group Soo Seok has a long industrial history that developed from the 70s of the last century - coming triumphant to the Third Millennium after having consolidated a formidable group of industry leaders.

BEGINNINGS

After commencing operations under the name Yonhap Glass Industry Co Ltd, the group was incorporated under its current name into a subsidiary of Dong-A Pharmaceutical. A company that manufactures food supplements, general medicine and over-the-



counter pharmaceuticals, it developed thanks to growth and diversification. Currently that includes a complete range of glass containers, PET bottles, various material closure systems and laminated corrugated cardboard boxes for packaging. Over the past ten years SooSeok has followed a growth path that's led it to move its current production plant of glass containers from Gyeonggi-do to its new site in Dangjin. Construction of the new production plant now opens a series of perspectives and issues - all required by the customer and related to the challenges of our times. These include a reduction in the emission of harmful pollutants in the atmosphere, reduced CO2 production, a general reduction in fuel consumption and an opening up to new technologies that can carry sustainable, high quality production forward.

PARTNERING FOR SUCCESS

This forms the basis of Soo Seok Group's collaboration with Stara Glass S.p.A, an Italian company that for 70 years has been targeting the market of glass manufacturers with engineering solutions, services and innovation - all aimed at supplying furnaces and distribution channels, which, in accordance with the technical requirements defined by SooSeok, are now executing the project while focusing on oxygen combustion technology. Here Stara Glass has been tasked with supplying the melting furnace. This will see it supporting a commitment to basic engineering while detailing all furnace components and equipment - from the choice and supply of the refractory materials that compose it to complete supervision of the construction and commissioning. Designed for the South Korean customer, the new furnace has a daily capacity of 220 tons of glass and is set to produce amber glass for high-quality containers aimed at the pharmaceuti-



cal market. These will be obtained through oxy-combustion burners as well as a significant contribution of electricity distributed through an appropriate boosting system.

DESIGN

Developed by Stara Glass, the design includes preparation of the furnace such that it is able, in a future, to incorporate the upcoming SU.G.A.R. technology. Once installed, and through the steam reforming technique, that will allow the SooSeok furnace to produce Hydrogen fuel independently - thereby recovering some chimney exhaust gas and so significantly reducing energy consumption. All supplied equipment from the raw material loading system to the fuel distribution ramps to the temperature, pressure and oxygen measurement instrumentation complies with the plant's stringent legal regulations. Here the process control system is based on the most modern automation technology - state-of-the-art in terms of controllers and SCADA supervision system, based upon redundant computers and connected to

a remote network that can provide all the necessary assistance and maintenance services. Flanked by engineers from SooSeok and Stara Glass working side-by-side, the project has been supported by Trevis Corp. which, playing the role of local agent while managing all project logistics, has given great satisfaction to both parties. An ambitious project that's set to come to life in the first part of 2024, this joint effort is primed now to offer its leading role to the Asian market. ■



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