



Preventing emulsification

The relationship between Amarith and Larsen & Toubro (L&T) began when an engineer from L&T posed a question about low shear pumps on an engineering forum that Amarith happened to answer. This resulted in L&T approaching Amarith when the company was contracted by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) to upgrade the capacity and effectiveness of an existing Produced Water Treatment Plant on a platform in the Mumbai High North field in the Arabian Sea.

The treatment plant used hydrocyclones for filtering small droplets of oil from produced water coming out of the well production stream. For these to operate effectively it was crucial that emulsification of the oil droplets in the water was prevented, which required "low shear" pumps. The filtration industry defines low shear pumps as those with a speed <1800rpm, head generated <50m and efficiency >75%.

Low shear expertise

Amarinth flew to Mumbai to present why its API 610 A-series OH2 centrifugal pumps would conform to the low shear parameters. Using computation fluid dynamics, Amarith was able to prove that its design met the strict criteria and demonstrated the effectiveness of its pumps.

A lot of support was delivered by Amarith to L&T during the bid process, underlining its depth of low shear knowledge. In addition, Amarith was successful in gaining ONGC approved vendor status through Siemens during the bid process. L&T finally selected Amarith over other European and Japanese manufacturers.

Document management

During the bid process, Amarith managed the documentation through its

web enabled document management system, which attracted a lot of interest. With a tight 26 week delivery deadline, a lot of specifications from ONGC, and 4,500 miles between Amarith's office and L&T in Mumbai, this system now became crucial in expediting the contract documentation.

L&T was able to view the status of all contract documents on-line and download the latest documents 24 hours a day. Audit revision history could be reviewed on-line and a real-time status report could be requested at any time, despite the 6 hour time gap. This all proved key in keeping the document flow up to speed with the contract.

Witness testing over the internet

When it came to testing the pumps, delays waiting for visas to be granted was impacting the critical path and threatening delivery. Amarith came up with an innovative arrangement using a web video camera so that the test process could be witnessed over the internet in the presence of L&T's designated inspector from Bureau Veritas Inspection agency.

The technique proved very successful and popular and enabled the pumps to be tested on-time. Additionally, a significant cost saving was made by removing the need for someone to come over from Mumbai.

An electronic future

Video witnessing of pump testing is now being allowed under the latest issue of the API 610 standard (ISO 13709) and this contract has provided a vision of the future of the international oil and gas equipment purchasing process. The majority of such transactions can now be accommodated over the internet with transmission of data via e-mail, clarifications by conference calls and webinars, full visibility of the production and documentation progress via the website and production testing witnessed over the internet.



Larsen & Toubro Limited

Larsen & Toubro is a technology, engineering, construction and manufacturing company. It is one of the largest and most respected companies in India's private sector.

Seven decades of a strong, customer-focused approach and the continuous quest for world-class quality have enabled the company to attain and sustain leadership in all its major lines of business.

Larsen & Toubro has an international presence, with a global spread of offices. In recent years it has seen overseas earnings grow significantly. And the company continues to grow its overseas manufacturing footprint, with facilities in China and the Gulf region.



"Amarinth is truly using all modern technology in all aspects of its business to make the whole contractual process as simple and cost effective as possible for its partners."

D A Kanthi Kiran
Lead Procurement Engineer

