

Swiss firm relies on LOHSE innovation and expertise

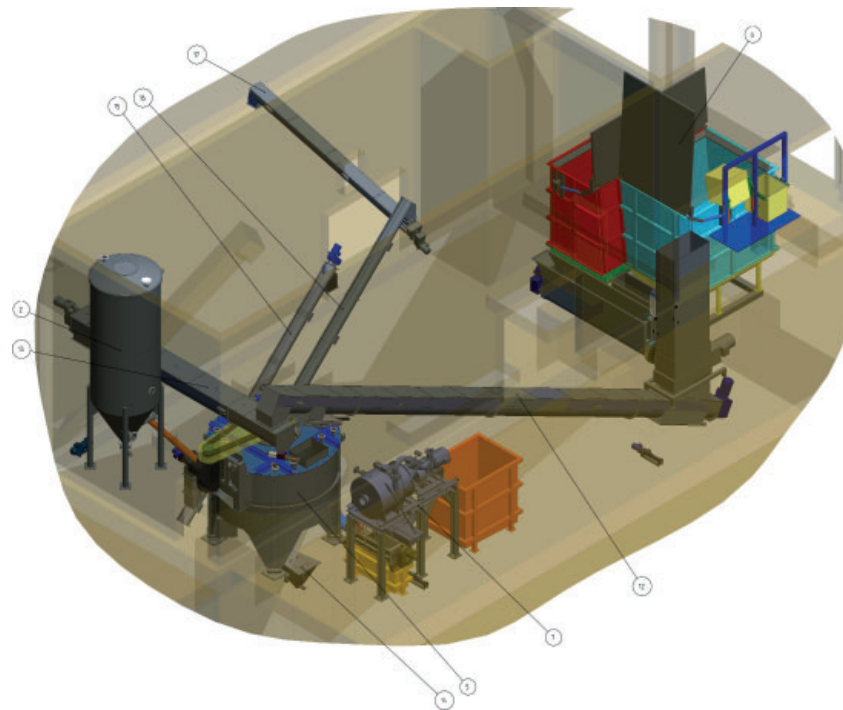
The LOHSE Group of Heidenheim-Oggenhausen has once again acquired a major international contract: The sewage cooperative Abwasserverband Altenrhein (AVA) in Switzerland has ordered a wet processing plant for biogenic waste. The plant is used to produce biogas from organic waste. The range of processed materials ranges from gastronomy waste to agricultural manure. “The processing of organic waste is a market of ever growing importance for LOHSE”, explains Ulrich Sekinger, Managing Director of the LOHSE Group. “That is why we have continued to expand our commitment in this area in recent years.” The Swiss contract is important proof that LOHSE is becoming more and more established in this market.

The waste processing plant from Heidenheim is an important addition to the AVA installations, and expands the portfolio of the cooperative. “In addition, the AVA now has plant redundancy for leftover food with packaging and solid products, and can also treat pasty waste”, explains LOHSE Managing Director Dietmar Warnke. The filtering of plastic from the waste is an especially complex process, which presents no problem for the LOHSE systems. “Especially in view of the discussions about plastic waste

and microplastic, which is causing an increasing impact on the environment, it is all the more important to separate the substances from other, reusable materials and to recycle them in a clean process”, explains Sekinger. This is exactly what can be achieved with the organic waste processing plant to be installed for AVA.

The general principle of the plant is to gradually filter out the hazardous substances from large to small, separating them from the remaining material. In particular, the input materials are conveyed into a double hopper depending on the consistency of the waste (see no. 6 in the picture) via a spiral conveyor into the pulper (5). In the pulper, the various waste is processed by LOHSE technology to create a suspension that is suitable for pumping. The suspension is then conveyed to the rejecter (7), where it is cleaned, separated (sifted) and further reduced. In the hydrocyclone (13) the finest foreign materials, such as sand and glass particles (< 2mm) are removed. What remains is a suspension that can easily be fermented, since it contains a very small quantity of foreign materials.

“We were convinced by the LOHSE concept”, says Christoph Egli, Managing Director of the AVA. In addition, the tender submitted by Heidenheim included exceptional references and many



Model of the biowaste wet processing plant that LOHSE will supply to the Abwasserverband Altenrhein (AVA).

years of experience in the field of wet processing of organic waste. Another convincing aspect of the plant was the modular design. “The plant can be expanded or converted at any time”, explains Sekinger. Egli: “The new plant allows us to offer our customers an extended range of services.” LOHSE had acquired the contract after the public invitation for tenders. The location of the plant

presented a special challenge. It is used in an area of the sewage treatment plant that is no longer in operation. “The plant had to be modified to fit into an existing hall”, Warnke explains. The managing directors explain that despite the limited space, the plant is integrated with the existing machines and installations of the sewage treatment plant.

Sekinger and Warnke expect

strong impulses from this market in the future. “Environmental awareness is increasing not only in Germany and the rest of Europe, where we have already been installing such systems for many years”, says Warnke. Central and Northern Europe are the pioneers of the industry, with an increasing number of inquiries from Spain, the Czech Republic, and also Asia, especially Taiwan and South Korea. In the rest of the world the

directors.

At the same time, the statutory regulations are becoming more stringent in the pioneering countries such as Germany or the Scandinavian countries. Many plant operators would have to upgrade existing systems or install new ones. “The technical possibilities for separating organic and inorganic substances are increasing from year to year”, explains Ulrich Sekinger. In view of these developments, we can expect a medium- to long-term boom in the waste processing sector. The opportunities for growth worldwide are immense, and this branch of industry could perhaps one day be as important as the automotive industry is today.



MARTIN LOHSE GmbH
Maschinenbau Lohse GmbH
Unteres Paradies 63
89522 Heidenheim
Germany
voice +49 7321 / 755-42
server.ab@lohse-gmbh.de
www.lohse-gmbh.de