

CEMENT PERFORMANCE REVIEW

QUARTER 4 2007

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2007 REVIEW

2007 has been another year of growth for **cpi**—both in terms of the number of new customers, the number of employees working for the company as well as the recognition it is gaining.

The year started with visits to Barrington Works, CEMEX UK, and Signal Mountain, Buzzi USA. At the former, **cpi** reviewed the burner operations with a new alternative fuel and also completed a desk-top study of process engineering options for the plant, taking into account the alternative fuels and emissions constraints. At the latter, a review of the plant operations and control systems was completed in preparation for the installation of new high level control systems. The first quarter also saw the start of the relationship between **cpi** and Al-Abbas cement - a desktop review of the uprating of the two kiln lines was completed, followed by a site visit to inspect the progress on the uprating of the kiln lines and to advise upon potential problem areas at commissioning.

cpi also re-acquainted itself with former colleagues at Golden Bay Cement, with a three week visit by one of the **cpi** operations specialists, to assist the plant management team to review the works structure and personnel requirements following the upgrade of the plant.

The second quarter saw an extension of **cpi** operations in South America, when **cpi** started to work with Cemento Yura in Peru. Initial visits were to audit the plant and **cpi** has since continued to work with Yura on various projects. The second quarter was also a busy month for the **cpi** team - preparing for the IEEE. This was the first time the company had exhibited at the event and as such much time was spent designing promotional materials and organizing logistics. For **cpi**, the event was a great success—the team were able to meet many new cement industry producers and suppliers, as well as the booth becoming a meeting point for many former colleagues. Needless to say **cpi** will be back next year. (continued on back page)



THE QUEEN'S AWARDS
FOR ENTERPRISE:
INTERNATIONAL TRADE
2007

<http://www.cementperformance.com/>

<http://www.cementperformance.com/english/news.html>

http://www.cementperformance.com/gatwick/cpi_Gatwick_Training_Programme.pdf

enquiries@cementperformance.com

SEASONS GREETINGS

cpi would like to wish all of the readers of this newsletter their best wishes for this seasonal period and a prosperous 2008.

Without the support of customers, suppliers, employees, colleagues and families **cpi** would not be able to operate its business and deliver the services to the global

cement industry.

Our industry is often criticized for the impact it has on the environment and local communities, despite the efforts that have been made and continue to be made to reduce the impact of operations and to give back to society.

Therefore this year **cpi**

has decided not to send Christmas cards to its stakeholders and instead has decided to make a contribution to charity. The chosen charity is Demelza House children's hospice in Kent, UK.

In this way **cpi** can make a contribution back into its local community in the same way as many of our customers.

CEMTECH FLORIDA

cpi Technical Marketing Director Mark Mutter recently presented a paper at the Florida CemTech conference. The paper — entitled “Variability Reduction—Unlocking Plant Performance and Customer Satisfaction”—focused on the importance of minimising both chemical and

physical variations through the cement manufacturing process.

The paper details areas in which variability can be reduced (or introduced) throughout the process and also the impacts of variability on cement manufacturers, sales teams and

customers.

The final part of the presentation showed the Variability Calculator, which was described in the Q2 2007 newsletter, and which can be found on the **cpi** website, along with the calculator and the paper presented at CemTech.

CALIFORNIA PORTLAND CEMENT

In December, **cpi** carried out audits of the coal handling and firing systems of the three plants of California Portland Cement.

Visits were made to each of the plants by the **cpi** specialist, with a Corpo-

rate Process Engineer, a long with representatives from each of the plants. In this way not only could all of the engineers work with the **cpi** specialist, but it was an opportunity for best practices in this technical area to be

shared between the three different sites.

The visit was completed with a close out presentation at the Corporate offices California Portland Cement in Glendora.

AL-ABBAS CEMENT

The association between Cement Performance International and Al-Abbas Cement in Pakistan has continued during the fourth quarter of 2007.

Earlier in the year, **cpi** had completed a technical review of the upgrades of both lines 1 and 2.

Line 1 was completed before line 2, and shortly after the commissioning of line 1 one of the **cpi** expert kiln burners visited the plant to assist in the optimization of line 1.

Amongst the tasks that were completed with the assistance of the plant team were:

- Setting up of control loops on the cooler and calciner fuel.
- Advising on the kiln feed chemistry and firing pipe alignment.
- Advising on the re-location of the back end oxygen probe.
- Advice on in-leaking air.

YANBU CEMENT AUDIT

Another repeat customer of **cpi** during the final quarter of 2007 was the Yanbu Cement company.

One of the original design team for line 4, a KHD precalciner, was Alan Lorimer, now one of **cpi's** Principal Process engineers. So when **cpi** was asked to undertake a pyro-

processing audit of line 4, Alan was the ideal choice to complete the task.

Alan was assisted during the visit by Brian Boon, who was on site to follow up on the dust handling study previously completed.

The visit included a full

preheater tower survey in the field, review of the cooler operation and cooler efficiency and a review of the production data to understand the variable production rates.

The **cpi** team also reviewed the dust handling operations and other plant uprating options.

BUZZI RIVER PLANT

The Buzzi River plant is currently installing a 7000 tpd clinker line at its plant in Festus, Missouri.

In the early part of the year a new vertical cement mill will be

commissioned, and later in the year the vertical raw mill and pyro-processing line.

cpi have been asked to assist the plant in selecting the future operators for this plant

and are designing a series of technical interviews for the candidates.

Cement Performance
International Ltd
9 Davy Court
Rochester
Kent
ME1 1AE
United Kingdom

Phone: +44 1634 404585

Fax: +44 8707 059250

cementperformance.com

2007 REVIEW (CONTINUED)

Just before the IEEE, a letter had arrived at the **cpi** offices indicating that the company had been awarded the Queens Award for Enterprise: International Trade. This award has been covered extensively in other newsletters, but the **cpi** team were all extremely proud to receive the award after 5 years in business, and to be considered in similar terms to companies such as Rolls-Royce, JCB, AMEC and Pfizer.

The end of the second quarter was another busy month in terms of preparation—for the Gatwick Cement Technology Course. The participants came from the UK, Ireland, USA, Peru, Australia and Greece—a truly international course reflecting the geographical spread of the **cpi** business. This course will be held annually at Gatwick in the first week of June. Don't forget to register on-line for the course in 2008 as we are expecting a high turnout of participants.

The third quarter found **cpi** continuing with the Technical Argos group, setting new 12 month targets for the plants under the contract. The **cpi** team have been working hard with the plants and the central technical team to achieve these targets. One particular program that has been supported this year is the Root Cause Analysis programme. Teams of both mechanical and process engineers have been visiting the plants, explaining the process and the roles of the RCA teams, and also assisting/coaching in a number of RCA sessions so that the facilitators can ensure that the sessions run smoothly

(and of course that realistic actions are agreed upon at the end of the sessions).

cpi has also continued to support various Argos projects—in particular the Columbus project—which is the new 5000 tpd kiln line in Cartagena. **cpi** Technical Director has spent many hours over the Atlantic this year attending meetings in Montreal, Miami and Cartagena to ensure that the technical specification and layout of the plant is correct. **cpi** will continue its support of this project and others that Argos are planning in 2008. Peter Dover and Allison Riser were also honoured to attend the ground-breaking ceremony in July.

The third quarter also saw a continuation of our work with Al-Abbas, new work with Yanbu Cement Company, commissioning in Malaysia, a process chemistry review at Pryor, Buzzi USA and the arrival of Miguel Munoz, a new Mechanical Engineer, from Colombia. And as you can tell from this newsletter the last quarter has also been pretty busy!

For 2008, **cpi** looks forward to working with existing and new clients throughout the global cement industry. This brief review demonstrates the full range of services and projects that **cpi** can undertake—from projects to troubleshooting, from desktop design to commissioning, from training to optimisation.

We look forward to hearing from you in 2008!

YOUR COMMENTS

As ever, we would like to have your feedback—especially on what you would like to see in this newsletter. Many of you participated in the **cpi** customer survey, the results of which are now on the website. If you have any further comments please contact us at the mail address on the front of this newsletter.