

State-of-the-art Biturox[®] test facility in Schwechat



R&D. Pörner operates a product development laboratory for bitumen that is unique in the world.

BY MARTIN SCHNEIDER

VIENNA. Pörner's Biturox[®] Research Center in Schwechat (near Vienna) is the world's recognized service provider for developing tailor-made quality bitumen from various crude oils and refinery intermediates.

Experience in a unique database

To optimally design a Biturox[®] plant to produce high-quality road and industrial bitumen, analyses of the intended feedstocks and practical pilot tests with the

the test results, the plant components (including reactor capacity) are then determined, and product guarantees are defined.

Pörner has analyzed almost all bitumen-capable feed components worldwide in more than four decades and conducted hundreds of pilot tests for bitumen-producing refineries. The results are available to Biturox[®] licensees in a comprehensive database.

Targeted application technology

The Biturox[®] pilot plants built by Pörner in the 1990s were pre-

BITUROX[®]

BITUMEN OXIDATION TECHNOLOGY

Biturox[®] product development laboratory in Schwechat. The new facility enables Pörner for even more targeted, faster processing of research orders by Pörner experts independent of external resources. For this purpose, own premises were rented in the new laboratory building of the OMV refinery Schwechat.

Flexible pilot plant 2.0

For greater flexibility, the new pilot plant is equipped with two reactors of different batch sizes, a smaller one with about 7.5 liters and a larger one with 15 liters to produce reference samples. In addition, the laboratory is equipped with basic measuring instruments for determining penetration and softening points, among others. Furthermore, Pörner added a high-shear mixer to produce test quantities of polymer-modified bitumen (PmB).

With the completion in October 2022, Pörner will now carry out Biturox[®] pilot tests independently and, thus, support bitumen-producing refineries worldwide in the correct selection of their feedstocks and the right dimensioning of Biturox[®] plant components. ■



Pörner project manager Martin Schneider (left) hands over the key to Mark Seper, who as head of Pörner Process Engineering will conduct numerous test on the brand new plant and expand Pörner's knowledge of the complex substance bitumen.

generation of reference samples as proof of product qualities are essential prerequisites. Based on

viously located within the OMV laboratories. However, last year, Pörner decided to develop its own

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