

Renewable diesel plant opts for Sulzer pumps creating low-carbon fuel to help reduce transportation emissions by up to 3 million tonnes per year

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In Canada, a major oil producer is undertaking a project to use local canola (rapeseed) oil to create renewable diesel on an industrial scale. At the heart of the plant will be a number of precision pumps from Sulzer that have been designed to handle the challenging process conditions. The expected outcome of the initiative is a reduction in carbon emissions by 3 million tonnes annually, equivalent to cutting the number vehicles on the road by 650'000.

The anticipated output of the facility is more than one billion liters of net zero diesel per year that can be used to power vehicles, trains and industrial boilers. The proposed expansion of the existing refinery is expected to be complete by March 2024.

Challenging processes

Sulzer has been selected to supply a range of pumps for the innovative project that will utilize locally grown crops as a bio-feedstock. In all, the company will supply 26 pumps. Two MSD (BB3) models will be responsible for the high pressure and high

temperature naphtha feed application, which is a central part of the catalytic process to break down the canola oil. Two BBT-D recycle pumps and a number of OHH and PRE process pumps, will be delivered with a Duplex stainless steel construction to ensure extended service in the challenging conditions.

Jayesh Kantharia, Senior Account Manager at Sulzer, comments: “We are very proud to play a part in the creation of this innovative renewable diesel complex that has such potential to help reduce carbon emissions. Using local agricultural produce to create low carbon fuel is a great way of maintaining our transport infrastructure while reducing the amount of greenhouse gases involved.”

Long-term reliability

The main pumping systems are designed for 2 x 100% operation, which means that the plant design has no back-up or redundancy facility and therefore the pumps must deliver excellent reliability.

For the pumps, quality starts with the raw materials and foundries used to create the castings. Traceability and a transparent manufacturing process are very important. To that end, the refinery’s representatives will be welcome to visit the Sulzer locations at any point during the production and testing phases.

Jayesh concludes: “As one of the first plants to produce renewable diesel on an industrial scale using these pioneering technologies and processes, the procurement team needed the support of a pump manufacturer that could offer technical expertise and design flexibility. Combined with our knowledge of biofuel applications, we can deliver pumping systems that will help to ensure process reliability and efficiency.”

Image captions:



Image 1: In Canada, a major oil producer is undertaking a project to use local canola oil to create renewable diesel on an industrial scale. (Image Source: shutterstock_2178886247)

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For more information, visit www.sulzer.com

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