

Salt Partners

Salt Partners Ltd.
Carl Spitteler Str. 102
CH-8053 Zurich
Tel.: +41 (44) 422 26 82
Fax: +41 (44) 422 26 83
www.salt-partners.com

Salt Partners assist Indian salt industry to modernise production with Durrant harvesters

With the assistance of Salt Partners, a contract for mechanisation of solar salt operations of one of the leading Indian salt producers and exporters in Gujarat, India, has been finalised.

The contract represents the latest advancement towards modernisation of the Indian salt industry. Under this contract, ROV Durrant Engineering, Port Elizabeth, South Africa, will supply the Durrant 590-95 type salt harvesters. The harvesters are scheduled to be shipped to Mundra seaport in India in the late 2011. The Durrant harvesters are expected to significantly improve the productivity of the solar saltworks and profitability of the salt production and exports.

The type designation 590-95 signifies the following:

- 5 is the type of the harvester chassis;
- 90 is the size of the engine, 9.0 litre;
- 95 is the diameter of the cutting drum (pick roll). It is designed to cut a salt layer 30 cm deep and collect it.

In this configuration, the harvesters have an instantaneous harvesting capacity of 200 m³/h of the salt layer, corresponding to approx. 350 t/h of bulk salt. Depending on turn-around times, waiting for trailers and operator breaks, the effective harvesting rate is somewhat lower. With mobile belt conveyors, about 80% of the instantaneous harvesting capacity is achievable.

The harvesters travel on the salt layer and cut the salt behind them. The ground pressure is similar to the pressure exerted by human foot. Therefore, the harvesters can be used in crystallisers growing salt on soft mud as well as on hard salt floor. The pick roll arrangement prevents collection of unbroken salt lumps and formation of fines. The level of the cutting drum is



Durrant 566-70 salt harvester in operation with mobile belt conveyors

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laser controlled, which facilitates maximum salt recovery and minimises salt contamination with impurities.

Unlike other systems, the Durrant salt harvesters perform all the required harvesting operations combined:

- The pick roll cuts the salt and flings it to the elevator;
- The elevator lifts the salt to the trucks, trailers or to the mobile belt conveyors;
- The harvester maintains the crystalliser floor perfectly levelled for the next crystallisation cycle.

No separate ripping, wind rowing, lifting and crystalliser floor maintenance after the salt harvest is required.

Salt Partners are independent consultants and engineers active in the field of salt and chloralkali production, salt processing and hypersaline biotechnology. Salt Partners' worldwide reputation is based on 40 years of experience gained in projects implemented worldwide.

For further information contact:

Vladimir M. Sedivy MSc (Hons) Chem Eng, IMD
President
vladimir.m.sedivy@salt-partners.com



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