



SOLVENTS STEWARDSHIP AWARDS - 2004

Solutions for the Future

Category: Best submission from a new Member State

For the 2004 Solvents Stewardship Awards, the European Solvents Industry Group developed a new category: **Best submission from an applicant based in a new EU Member State**. Due to the high quality of applications in this new category, the jury decided to nominate two companies as joint winners; this case study looks at the application of **PENTA**.

ABOUT THE COMPANY



Founded in 1990, PENTA produces and supplies pharmaceutical and specialty chemicals of high quality standards for

laboratories and other special uses. The company is well known not only to customers in the Czech Republic but to many foreign companies as well. In addition to supplying more than 8,500 sophisticated products, PENTA also provides support and services on matters such as quality, safety, packaging and transportation of these products. The company has 40 employees with activities divided into three divisions: a production division in the town of Chrudim and pharmaceutical and commercial divisions in Prague.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

In 2003 a new production line for the tanking, storage and refilling of volatile solvents was established. This line is designed to pump solvents like methanol, ethylacetate, isopropylalcohol, toluene and acetone from railway tanks to storage tanks and re-pumping to trucks, containers and different types of barrels.

The line is equipped with a system for extracting and capturing volatile organic vapours during solvent handling operations, which practically eliminates all VOC emissions. The system also includes protection



Pumping solvents from a railway tank

against antistatic discharges and new safety valves. These environmental measures, according to PENTA, wholly meet the ambitious legislative emission limits of EU directives.

Apart from the evident benefits to worker safety and the environment, the company has also reduced costs due to lower environmental taxes as well as minimised solvent losses. PENTA says "The system we used for elimination of VOC emissions can be applied for all volatile and combustible solvents", again demonstrating the possibility to apply such protective measures across industries.

This nomination is part of a broader initiative to build trust and shared responsibility between management and the employees. Other projects include newly designed facilities (labs, canteen) and continuous dialogue with employees. This is believed to be essential to ensuring higher technological and SHE standards whilst building a positive image of the company.

OPINION OF THE JURY

The jury was sensitive to this initiative to build up state-of-the-art pumping and storage facilities that has resulted in virtually no VOC emissions. In addition, the internal communications activities within the company and the efforts to build trust and shared responsibility were particularly recognised.

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The Solvent Stewardship Awards promote and encourage best practice and continuous improvements in the use of solvents. Awards are presented to companies that best demonstrate improvements in health, safety and environmental aspects in their use of solvents. The jury of the 2004 awards was composed of representatives of the following organisations: European Chemical News, European Commission - DG Enterprise, European Aerosol Federation, European Association of Craft Small and Medium Sized Enterprises and the European Chemical Industry Council.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about PENTA, please visit www.penta-chem.cz or contact General Direktor Dr. Petr Svec, Wuchterlova 16, 160 41 Prague 6, Czech Republic, Email: info@penta-chem.cz

For more information about ESIG and the solvents industry, please visit our website: www.esig.org or contact us by Email: esig@cefic.be

