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Multotec introduces coal spiral pilot plant

Multotec Process Equipment's considerable success with its heavy minerals spiral plant led it to recognise the need for a similar plant in the coal industry.

The plant is equipped with a dewatering cyclone, a sieve bend and a bank of four Multotec MX7 spirals with the capacity to treat 36 tph of fine coal. The plant processes fines, saving large volumes of coal which would normally be relegated to waste dumps. The fines are first deslimed with a Multotec desliming cyclone and then passed over a sieve bend to remove the +1 mm oversize material before being fed to the spirals. The plant is inclusive of pumps and sumps to feed the spirals.

"The pilot plant offers numerous advantages," Renira Reddy, product manager:gravity concentration at Multotec, says. "It is easily dismantled, moved and re-erected thanks to its design as a moveable unit. It is self-standing and engineered as a plug-and-play unit, though this depends on individual site conditions such as a ready supply of water as well as tailings disposal set-up."

“The pilot plant is trial erected prior to its transportation to site,” adds project manager, Gerhard Hattingh. “This enables the customer to give it a final inspection before moving it to site, virtually eliminating any teething problems associated with the structural layout.”

Highly competitive in terms of capital cost as well as operating costs, the Multotec coal spiral pilot plant is ideal for plants located in remote regions and can be employed as a pilot test unit, if required. It is accessible to all miners and is particularly suitable for junior mining operations.

“Delivery times are favourable,” adds Hattingh, “From order to delivery to site is no more than twelve weeks for deliveries within the Gauteng region. In addition, return on investment is rapid, with capital outlay often being recouped within months.”

If necessary, the plant can be skid-mounted which eliminates the need for extensive earthworks and civils works. It can handle a feed capacity of 40 tph with a nominal spiral capacity of 36 tph. “If required, larger capacity pilot plants can be supplied with little modification to the original design,” Reddy points out.

The heart of the plant is the already well known Multotec MX7 coal spiral. The benefit of the two-stage spiral design is that two separation stages are achieved

in a single unit using a seven-turn spiral that uses a repulper and rejects a primary discard at turn 4. "This feature provides a lower capital investment while still maximising yield and meeting quality targets."

The spiral is manufactured by reverse lamination and has an integral rubber edge which improves circumferential integrity and prevents spillage.

CAPTION PIC 01: A typical coal spiral plant from Multotec.

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