

Lohse

Waste Technology:

In use worldwide

For more than 30 years the Heidenheim-based LOHSE Group has been developing and manufacturing machines for the processing of waste. Meanwhile, more than 50 of these machines are in use: for example in England, Spain and Italy, as well as the Far East and the USA.

“Every year, our machines process more than three million tons of waste and convert it into energy”, says LOHSE Managing Director Ulrich Sekinger. For the company, which is known primarily for the development and production of valves, as well as the construction of machines for the paper industry, what was once a niche is now a growing business unit.

For one thing, the demand for modern technology is growing in times of increasing mountains of waste around the world. For another, LOHSE has earned a good reputation for innovation over the past decades. “We benefit from our paper industry expertise and are also able to respond with flexibility to customer requirements”, explains Sekinger. That is also reflected in the most recent project implemented by LOHSE in cooperation with a partner from Italy.

The BTS company, located in the South Tyrolean city of Bruneck, commissioned LOHSE to manufacture a complete wet processing system for organic waste, to be used in Bari. The total order volume



The Lohse waste pulpers during production.

is about one million euros. “The plant will process up to 80 tons of organic waste every day”, reports Sekinger. A special feature of the processing plant manufactured in Oggenhausen is that

it can accept a wide range of products, including industrial waste.

“Another requirement: The plant must be able to process both packaged and

non-packaged organic waste”, Sekinger explains. Foreign materials such as plastic foils, textiles or food packages are not only shredded in the waste pulper of the LOHSE machine, but also filtered out in the downstream rejector. Sekinger: “At the end of the process, the lightweight plastic content in the suspension relative to the dry mass is only 0.01 percent” – an excellent figure in view of current discussions about harmful (micro) plastic in the environment. After these lightweight materials are removed from the suspension, small granular particles (with a size of less than 20 to 30 millimetres) such as glass or sand are separated in the hydrocyclone. The liquid is then pumped into the fermenter, which is provided by BTS.

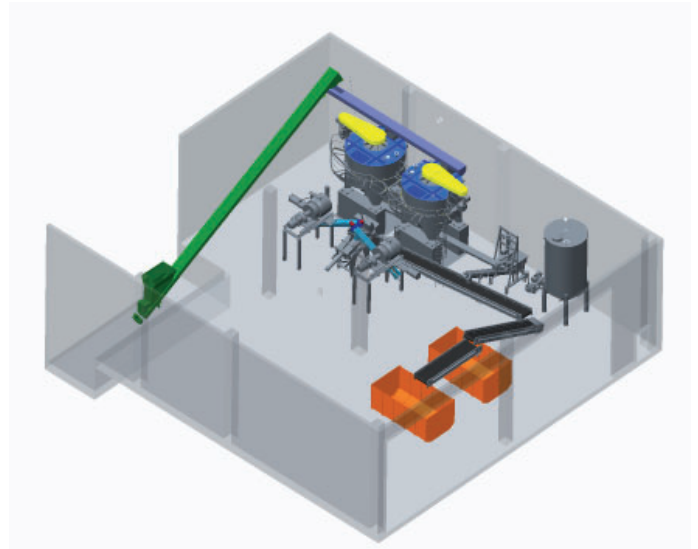
“We provide versatile processing technology for different types of organic waste”, explains Sekinger. That includes not only pre-sorted household waste, but also green clippings, manure, leftovers, packaged foods, jars, beverage cartons, metal tins and waste from food production.

LOHSE and BTS jointly plan and build turnkey biogas systems with an output from 250 kilowatts to 1.5 megawatts. The customers include public contracting authorities from numerous countries. “Together with BTS we offer the end customer a wide range of services, including not only repairs and technical

remote maintenance, but also biological support”, says Sekinger. “That allows us to ensure optimal biological and technical processing conditions as well as maximum operating reliability.” The partner company in Bruneck, with more than 180 installed systems (which can cover the energy requirements of up to 175,000 households), is a leading provider of biogas systems in Italy.

LOHSE develops and produces numerous elements of the biomechanical wet processing systems, such as receiving hoppers, conveyors, waste pulpers, discharge systems, multi-sorters, rejectors, draining presses and sand catchers. “We started developing wet processing systems back in 1985”, explains Sekinger.

At that time LOHSE was in search of new uses for the existing technology, which was in demand primarily by the



The plant in Bari / Italy.

paper industry. In 1993 LOHSE delivered the first system to Baden-Baden – the first of meanwhile 43 in Europe alone.

LOHSE will present its waste technology developed in Oggenhausen at next year’s IFAT in Munich, the world’s leading trade fair for water, sewage, waste and raw materials management. “We have been among the exhibitors since 2014”, explains Sekinger. The company’s commitment in the former niche industry has paid off: Additional international projects are already upcoming by the



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