

Case Study

BCSD Portugal Collection

Energy efficiency and energy price

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CUF Químicos Industriais set an objective: to expand its capacity for chlorine-sodium production, ensuring a decrease in the electricity consumption and in the energy bill. And it was taught a lesson: there is a possibility that investments in energy efficiency and changes in consumer patterns may pay for themselves, without requiring increases in production volumes.

The great motivators behind this energy efficiency project were the increase in energy costs, the need to maintain the competitiveness of Estarreja chemical site vis-à-vis the international counterparts and the necessity to expand delivery capacity and production flexibility, using cutting edge technology.

The target of this project was CUF's main customer, which is integrated in Estarreja chemical site – with improved energy efficiency, the product cost price, highly dependent on the electricity pricing, will be reduced. The project allows a reduction in CUF's production costs, and the transfer of this efficiency gain to the clients, with special relevance for CUF's main customer in Estarreja chemical site. This advantage improves the competitiveness of the site, promoting consolidation and future growth.

The cost of the project amounted to approximately M EUR 1,6. CUF established partnerships with strategic clients in order to share this investment and committed itself, in return, to share also the future resultant benefits. Between planning and execution stages, the project lasted about one and a half years. Results will be monitored over a two year period.

Actions developed throughout the project:

- Assessment of the technical and financial feasibility of the project: budgeting, technical workability, technical options to be adopted, expected result projection in terms of cost reduction – specifically in the energy costs through consumption modulation –, impact on interruptibility and reducing energy consumption.
- Customer partnership: together with the customer, efforts were made to raise awareness and understanding with regards to potential gains.
- Planning and execution of the work: planning and scheduling the work to be executed, supplier consultations and on-site assembly of the necessary equipment.
- Tracking results: benchmarking and reporting.