

Metsä Fibre and Savcor – Over 30 Years Cooperation



Metsä Fibre Joutseno Mill. Photo: Metsä Fibre.

Metsä Fibre and Savcor have been partners for a long time. The cooperation started at the Kaskinen pulp mill more than 30 years ago and has continued strongly in different development projects.

The cooperation between the two companies started in the early 1980's at the Metsä-Botnia Kaskinen pulp mill. The mill had cracks in their impregnation vessel that was caused by stress corrosion. **Hannu Savisalo** and **Martti Pulliainen** from Savcor together with **Antero Heinävaara**, **Risto Joronen**, **Antti Virkkala**, **Timo Piilonen**, **Teuvo Mäkitalo** and **Erkki Varis** from the Kas-

kinen pulp mill, searched for a solution to the problem. At Savcor's suggestion, the Anodic Prevention System (AP) was installed in the impregnation vessel and results were achieved allowing the mill to continue using the old vessel.

Development in many areas

Metsä Fibre and Savcor have had continuous cooperation in many areas over the years. The partnership has covered all Metsä Fibre mills and various parts of the pulp making process. Savcor's electrical corrosion prevention systems have been installed in digesters, impregnation vessels and bleaching washers at Metsä Fibre mills. Savcor has provided the mills with monitoring systems, corrosion studies and measurements related to material choices and process changes, as well.

The Recovery Boiler Diagnostic System (Savcor BDS) was developed in cooperation in the late 1990's to prevent corrosion problems in a recovery boiler. Several research and survey projects have also been made in material engineering and material durability in collaboration with other specialists.

"We need partners, who are top experts in their field"

- Our goal at Metsä Fibre is to improve our operations continuously. Thus, we need partners, who are top experts in their field. In our long-term cooperation with Savcor Forest, we have joint our world-class know-how to prevent corrosion in process equipment. The

solutions have secured maximum usage of our capacity and extended life-cycle of the process equipment, says Mr. **Ismo Nousiainen**, SVP, Production, Metsä Fibre.

- Our cooperation has worked perfectly. Metsä Fibre has always been very motivated to further develop their operations and to look for new innovative opportunities, summarizes Mr. **Jukka Rautiainen**, Savcor Forest's CEO. We at Savcor, see that our partnership has had a very solid base with mutual confidentiality. We have shared a common goal, and solved various problems together.

Aiming consistent quality

Metsä Fibre focuses on long-term quality work, with special attention to customers' needs to secure consistent quality and to manage variations. Savcor Forest has been involved in the project, in which Metsä Fibre has developed a quality management tool "Botnia FOX-quality index" (Fibre Online Index).

The index can be used at the pulp mill's quality control and development to replace conventional laboratory measurements with online data. This allows them to take systematic advantage of customer feedback on quality follow-up.

Metsä Fibre is a world-leading producer of softwood pulp. Metsä Fibre's main products – sustainably and cost-efficiently produced softwood and birch pulp – are specially developed for the production of high-quality fine papers, magazine and tissue papers, and board. Metsä Fibre operates under the brand name Botnia. With four pulp mills in Finland, the company employs a total of about 800 people. Metsä Fibre's sales in 2012 were approximately EUR 1.3 billion. Metsä Fibre is part of Metsä Group.



Photo: Metsä Fibre.

"Real-time quality information can be used throughout the value chain to improve efficiency"

Botnia FOX combines Metsä Fibre's long-term customer expertise, the theory of pulp making and the utilization of statistical mathematics in an innovative way. The real-time quality information provided by Botnia FOX can

be used throughout the value chain to improve efficiency.

Technical implementation of the index is based on the Savcor Wedge Process Diagnostics System technology. The Wedge System was piloted at the Rauma mill in 2011, after which it was also introduced in Joutseno and Äänekoski. The system was installed at the Kemi mill in early 2013.

Metsä Fibre won the Finnish Quality Innovation competition with its Botnia FOX index in 2012 in the category of large companies.



Wedge training at the Kemi Mill. Mika Suojärvi from Savcor Forest and Jukka Rantamäki and Kimmo Kolehmainen from Metsä Fibre Kemi Mill. Photo: Metsä Fibre.