



ALWAYS AN IDEA AHEAD

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

*CONVERSION PROJECTS FROM Hg- to Mem- ELECTROLYSIS
TECHNOLOGY*



CloroSur
2022

COSTA DO SAUÍPE



PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE CONVERSION PROJECTS FROM Hg- to Mem- ELECTROLYSIS TECHNOLOGY

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Chemieanlagenbau Chemnitz GmbH | www.cac-chem.de | www.cac-synfuel.de



Content

1. Introduction of CAC - Chemieanlagenbau Chemnitz GmbH
2. Conversion from Mercury to Membrane
3. Selected conversion projects and experiences
4. Conclusions and Q&A



Overview

**Mid-sized,
Owner-managed**

**Engineering of
Chemical Plants**

EPC Contractor

**EUR 50m – 120m
Turn-over p.a.**

**6 Locations
globally**

**55 years'
Experience**

**400 Employees,
300 in Chemnitz**

**> 500 Projects
implemented**

SANTIAGO DE CHILE

CHEMNITZ
WIESBADEN KRAKOW KIEV ALMATY

Service Portfolio

Feasibility Studies

FEED

Basic and Detail Engineering

Project Management

Authority Engineering

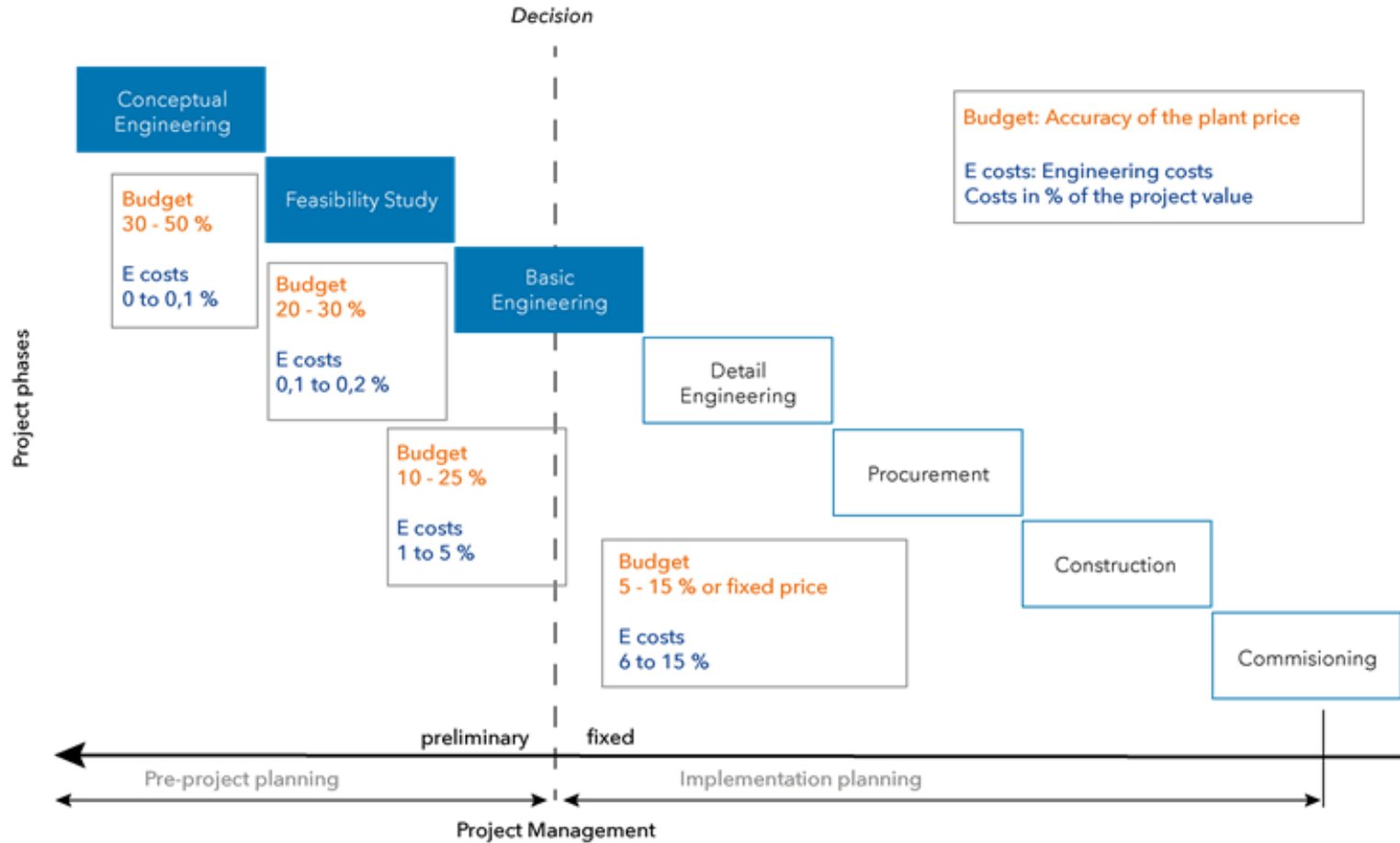
Financial Engineering

International Purchasing & Contracting

Provision of Technology

Construction Management

Commissioning



Major Targeted Industries & Market Segments



Chlor-Alkali Solutions

- Brine Treatment
- Electrolysis
- Chlorine Treatment
- Ferric Chloride
- Polyaluminium Chloride



(Green) Power-to-X Solutions

- Water Electrolysis
- eMethanol
- CO₂ Recovery
- Synthetic Fuels / eFuels
 - Methanol to Fuel
 - Methanol to Jetfuel



Hydrocarbon Solutions

- Refinery Technologies
- Expandable Polystyrene
- Butadiene
- Maleic Anhydride
- Cumene
- Natural Gas Underground Storage
- Gas Compressor Station



Chemical Solutions

- Sulphuric Acid
- Production Facilities for Catalysts and Intermediate Products
- Other Batch and Multipurpose Plants
- Nitrogen derivatives

Milestones of CAC in Chlorine Business

1st chlorine plant

1964 1st chlorine alkali electrolysis (mercury) built for BASF AG, Germany

1st Membrane Electrolysis

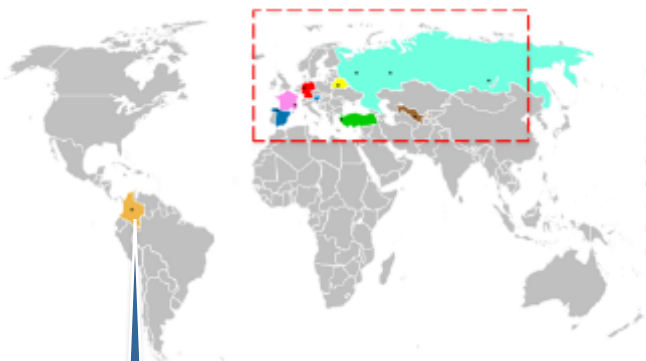
1983 1st chlorine plant (membrane) built for United Srichai Chemicals, Thailand

of C-A plants implemented

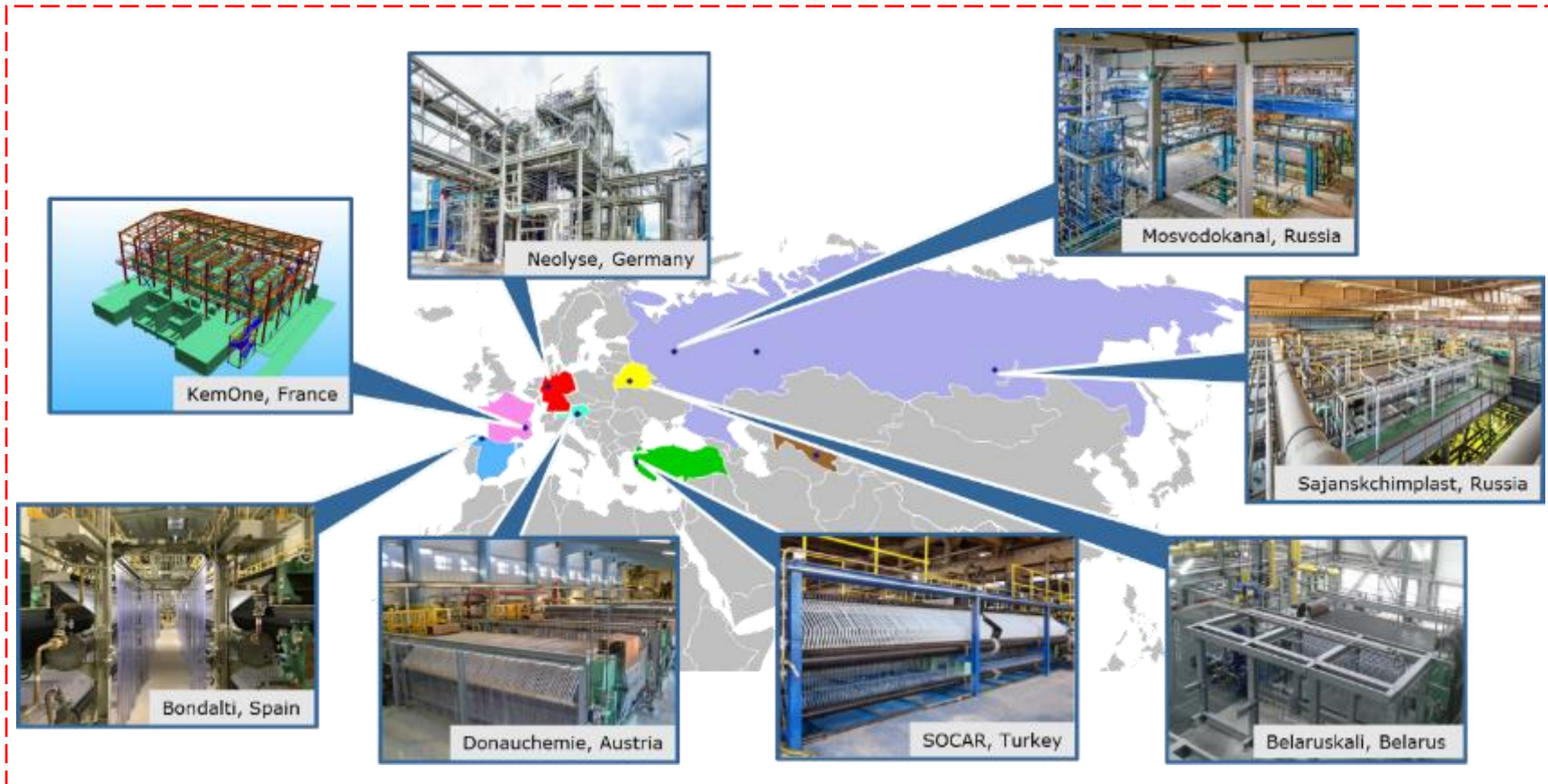
2000 - Today
11 projects in 9 countries
8 conversions projects
Running Capacity 650.000 t/a Cl₂
> 30 projects in Cl₂ industry



CAC's proven track record in the Chlor-Alkali Industry



- Austria
- Belarus
- Colombia
- France
- Germany
- Spain
- Russia
- Turkey
- Uzbekistan



2. Conversion from Mercury to Membrane



Membrane vs. Mercury process - Advantages

- **Environmental impact & improvements**
 - Complete reduction of the mercury emissions to the air
 - Exclusion of contamination of mercury to the soil
 - No waste water and waste disposal contaminated with mercury
- **Significant reduction of electrical power consumption – up to 30% less!**
- **Essential savings of operational costs due to:**
 - No further mercury treatment & disposal required
 - Up to 50% less operational staff required
 - Less maintenance costs

Re-usable Equipment

Possible

- ✓ Salt dissolver, tanks, heat exchangers
- ✓ Gas treatment sections (coolers, drying towers, blowers, compressors...)
- ✓ Filters and columns: usually too big, but no problem (more retention time)

Based on our experienced...

- Equipment & piping have to be checked carefully
- Cleaning of filters, tanks, pumps etc. has to be done properly with water or with diluted hypo solution
- Check for elementary mercury at low points
- Additional equipment to protect electrolyzer

Possible but Not Recommended

- X Pumps: not recommended – especially brine pumps are usually too big
- X Transformer/rectifier: not recommended – different requirements for current & voltage

Location for the conversion

New equipment can be installed:

- Greenfield, next to old plant
- In old building → re-use cell room after decontamination

Decontamination (EuroChlor TSEM 05/311, TSEM 11/378, TSEM 11/389):

- Mercury is everywhere → concrete structure & ground need to be removed or not touched at all
- Sand should not be brought back in place → to be removed & decontaminated
- Protective equipment, cleaning and hygiene is of high importance (TSEM 05/305 Housekeeping Do's and Don't's)

Space requirements:

- Membrane electrolyzers require higher cell room
- Space required underneath membrane electrolyzers

3. Selected conversion projects and experiences



Location: Torrelavega, Spain

Plant: Chlor-Alkali Electrolysis

Capacity: 65,000 t/y Chlorine
72,000 t/y Caustic Soda

Contract type: EPC

Services:

- Project Management
- Basic and Detail Engineering
- Procurement and Supplies
- Construction Management
- Construction
- Commissioning and Start-up Assistance
- Training

Project Completion: 2020

Electrolyser Technology:
Asahi Kasei Corporation, JPN



Electrolyser

Neolyse Ibbenbüren GmbH

(Production Joint Venture between Nouryon/Akzo Nobel Industrial Chemicals GmbH and Evonik AG)



Location: Ibbenbüren, Uffeln, Germany

Plant: Chlor-Alkali Electrolysis

Capacity: 130,000 t/y Caustic Potash
82,000 t/y Chlorine

Services:

- Project Management
- Basic and Detail Engineering
- Procurement Services
- Construction Management
- Commissioning and Start-up Assistance
- Training

Project Completion: 2017

Electrolyser Technology: Asahi Kasei Corporation, JPN



Neolyse – Location

Location: Zipaquirá, Republic of Columbia

Plant: Conversion of the existing Chlor-Alkali Electrolysis

Capacity: 29,600 t/y Caustic Soda
27,100 t/y Chlorine

Services:

- Project Management
- Basic and Detail Engineering
- Procurement and Supplies
- Construction Supervision Assistance
- Commissioning and Start-up Assistance
- Training

Project Completion: 2017

Electrolyser Technology:

Chlorine Engineers Corporation, JPN



Revamp of the existing Chlor-Alkali Electrolysis

Potasse et Produits Chimiques SAS

Location: Thann, France

Plant: Chlor-Alkali Electrolysis / Bromine Recovery Unit

Capacity: 68,400 t/y Caustic Potash
43,200 t/y Chlorine
4,000 t/y Bromine

Contract type: EPC

Services:

- Project Management
- Basic and Detail Engineering
- Procurement and Supplies
- Construction Management
- Construction
- Commissioning and Start-up Assistance
- Training

Project Completion: 2016

Electrolyser Technology: Chlorine Engineers Corporation, JPN



Cellroom – Electrolyser Section

Parallel operation of Hg & Mb electrolysis

Advantage: minimise downtime by establishing

- one combined brine loop for treatment of brine to/from Hg electrolysis as well as membrane electrolysis and
- proper tie-in points for common product handling

Disadvantages:

- requires more time for planning and establishing of tie-in points
- possibly creates unwanted interferences from one system to the other (e.g. back pressure, interlocks, Hg contamination...)
- requires additional step(s) for removal of mercury (precipitation and/or ion exchanger)

Separation of contaminated area



Example:

wooden wall for separation of Hg electrolyzers (in operation) and construction site



Location: Sayansk, Russia
Plant: Chlor-Alkali Electrolysis
Phase 1: Conversion
Phase 2: Expansion

Capacity: 169,000 t/y Caustic Soda
150,000 t/y Chlorine (Phase 1)
180,000 t/y Chlorine (Phase 2)

Completion: **Phase 1:** 2006
Phase 2: 2013

Services:

- Project Management
- Extended Basic and Detail Engineering
- Design specification for civil works, steel structure, HVAC
- Procurement and Supplies
- Construction Supervision Assistance
- Commissioning and Start-up Assistance
- Training

Electrolyser Technology:

Asahi Kasei Corporation, JPN

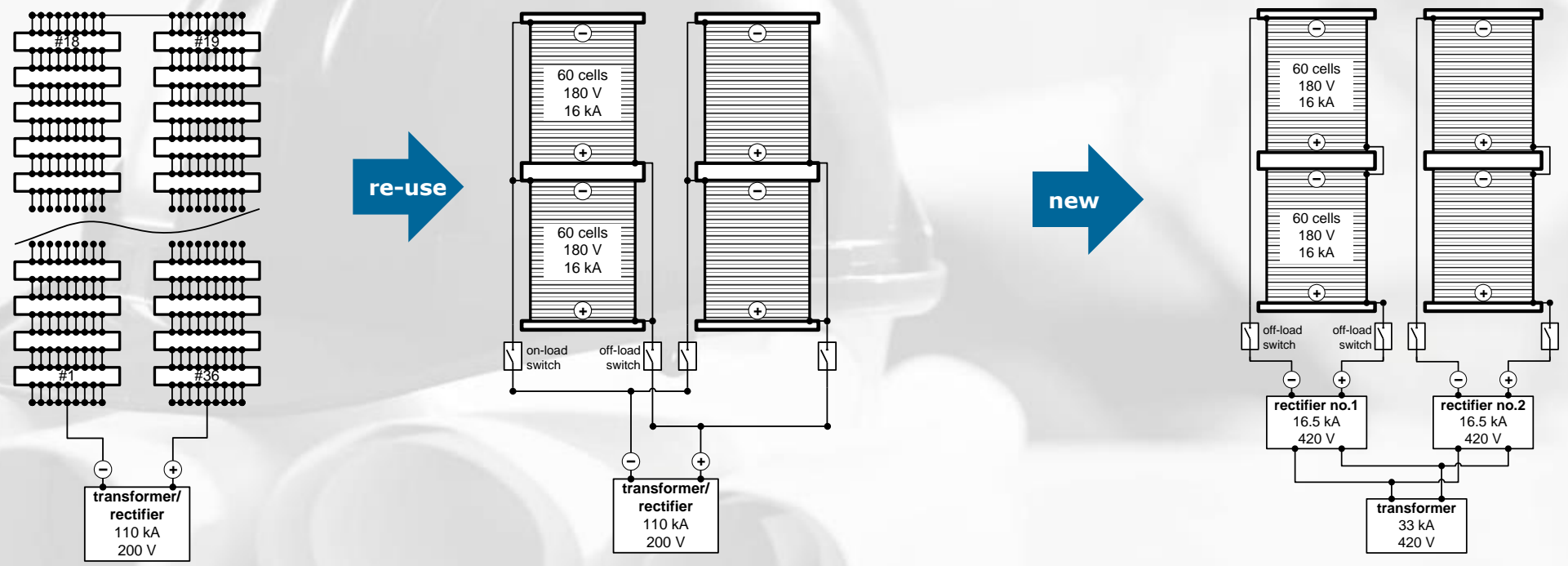


Special conditions:

First Chlor-Alkali Membrane Electrolysis in Russia
Consideration of the Russian Regulation on Chlorine
Financed through ECA-covered loan by Euler-Hermes Credit Insurance

Re-use of equipment: Transformer / Rectifier

- Lower Capex
- Less Operational Flexibility - Maintenance
- Traditionally Hg electrolysis requires relatively high current and low voltage
- Area of membrane cells is smaller and current density is smaller than in Hg cells
 - More cells connected in series – resulting in higher overall voltages



Donau-Chemie Expansion Project

Location: Brückl, Austria

Plant: Expansion of the existing
Chlor-Alkali Electrolysis

Capacity: 35,700 t/y Caustic Soda
31,600 t/y Chlorine

Services:

- Project Management
- Extended Basic Engineering
- Detail Engineering
- Procurement and Supplies
- Construction Management
- Commissioning and Start-up Assistance
- Training

Project Completion: 2015

Electrolyser Technology: Asahi Kasei
Corporation, JPN



Chlor-Alkali Electrolysis

Conclusion & Summary

Conversion from Hg- to Membrane Electrolysis Technology

- Conversion from mercury to membrane technology is beneficial in terms of operating costs and from environmental point of view
- Re use of equipment after decontamination to reduce investment costs
 - Cell room building
 - Brine treatment equipment
 - Transformer rectifier
 - Evaluation and scheduling
- CAC 's experience shows alternative solutions depending on each clients specific conditions.

MUCHAS GRACIAS

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THANK YOU

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