

Solar, Minerals and Power

Solar manufacturing in the Far East



A major new manufacturing facility is being built in the Far East for the production of wafers, cells and modules for the solar industry. A programme of risk engineering for the project is underway undertaken by Charles Taylor technical (CTt) for the insurers and reinsurers of the project policy. The state-of-the-art plant is expected to commence production in stages starting in 2010. Equipment and components are being obtained from across the world requiring careful management of suppliers to ensure everything arrives in time. For more information on Risk Engineering contact: Richard.Radevsky@ctcplc.com

Afghanistan power



After careful security planning CTt recently completed a survey of a power plant under construction near Kabul. More information contact: Doug.Scott@ctcplc.com

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Gold mining in the Caribbean



CTt has recently surveyed a gold mine in the Caribbean that has become fully operational having after the construction phase was completed ahead of schedule. It is in the process of optimising its ore extraction and processing facilities.

A mine of this type usually contains a wide combination of risks involving utility and

processing equipment as well as the mining operation itself. The survey had to consider boilers, diesel turbines and fuel storage areas. Process facilities included sulphide processing plant producing copper concentrate and an oxide processing plant producing silver and gold ingots. The fact that gold was being extracted in a remote area required a considerable security effort. Surface water management is also vital in areas where tropical storms can produce high volumes of run off. Surveyors need a wide range of experience, not only in mining, to undertake a comprehensive risk analysis. For more information contact: Jeff.Ashman@ctcplc.com

Offshore surveys



There is a growing requirement for surveys of offshore locations. Surveys of onshore hydrocarbon facilities, oil refineries, gas plants and petrochemical facilities are widespread and routine for oil underwriters. Many hazards in offshore plants are similar to those in the onshore industry. An additional dimension is the risk of damage to the structural integrity of the platform. Causes of damage include extreme weather conditions and collisions. Conducting an offshore survey is more complex than a survey for a typical refinery. Much of the information the surveyor needs is not generally available on the platform and meetings are therefore needed at the onshore support centre. The logistics of offshore surveys are also more complex than onshore with key company personnel often being difficult to track down and space on helicopters to and from the platforms being limited. With careful planning, it is possible to arrange comprehensive offshore surveys without incurring excessive costs.

For more information contact: Doug.Scott@ctcplc.com

Fertiliser plants in South Asia



The production from natural gas of ammonia/urea for fertiliser is vital to maintain efficient agricultural production. CTt has recently completed a programme of surveys of several plants in South Asia. These are run by highly qualified and experienced staff. The level of loss prevention knowledge is such that they are regularly used for training operators from other plants including from the Middle East. Staff are also in demand to work in other plants.

Historically North America and Europe have been seen as the main regions for fertiliser plant operator training. With the sustained achievement of industry best practice standards at the plants surveyed, this view is now changing. For more information contact: Doug.Scott@ctcplc.com

EMLs for chemicals complex

CTt has recently completed a study of the EMLs (Estimated Maximum Losses) for a series of chemical plants in South America. The plants which are contained within two complexes manufacture Methanol, Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE) High Density Polyethylene (HDPE), Low Density Polyethylene (LDPE) and Linear Low Density Polyethylene (LLDPE). EMLs are one of the cornerstones of any insurance policy since they attempt to define the maximum amount of indemnity an insurer will be called upon to pay towards a loss triggered by a single event. Obtaining a realistic estimate is important in determining the level of reinsurance that is purchased by Insurers. The calculation of EMLs requires a thorough understanding of the technology and processes used at a site including how an event at one plant can impact adjacent plants.



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Factory fire

A recent major fire in a factory was the subject of an investigation by CTt. Having started in a contained area at one end of the plant, the fire rapidly spread across the roof of the building dropping burning debris onto the interior of the factory below causing numerous secondary fires which resulted in extensive damage. Restoring production at the factory is expected to take months owing to the need to replace large parts of the structure as well as the equipment within.



The insulation

The investigation by CTt indicated that the most probable cause was an overheated fan which dropped sparks onto rolls of paper in a store room. Flames from the burning paper ignited insulation. Although today this type of foam plastic insulation would not be used for new buildings there are still many factories similar to the one that was destroyed.

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The technical team within Charles Taylor provides risk focussed technical expertise. Services include engineering, surveying, technical loss adjusting, risk research and analysis.

A worldwide capability is available drawing on the resources of the CTC Group.

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