Case Study

Wastewater Treatment Optimization using Membrane System

Buenos Aires, Argentina

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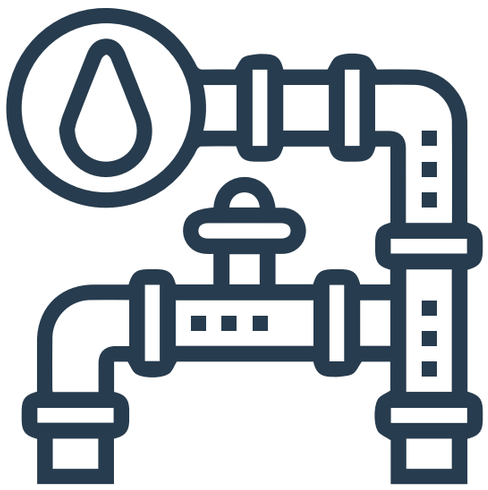
Case Study



Customer:
Coke FEMSA

Location:
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Technology:
Wastewater Treatment Optimization using Membrane System

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Coke FEMSA is the largest bottler of Coca Cola products in the world in terms of volume of sales, with one in ten Coca-Cola products being produced by Coke FEMSA

Background

Coke FEMSA is the largest bottler of Coca Cola products in the world in terms of volume of sales, with one in ten Coca-Cola products being produced by Coke FEMSA globally. **The bottler provides services for more than 100 brands through a network of more of 2.9 million resellers reaching more than 346 million consumers across nine countries in Latin America and the Philippines.**

Coke FEMSA works hand in hand with The Coke Company (TCCC) to design and implement a compelling portfolio of beverage brands and packaging that address individual market dynamics and stimulates demand from a growing consumer base. In Argentina, Coke FEMSA provides more than 77 resellers and serves approximately 33% of the population (13 million consumers).

Challenge

Due to its large production volume, the Alcorta facility needed to increase its wastewater treatment capacity. The existing treatment plant was at capacity without ability for further expansion. Also, the high standards required by TCCC relating beverages produced and water consumed motivated Coke FEMSA to consider reuse opportunities.

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Solution

By using a Membrane Bioreactor (MBR) system provided by Fluence ahead of the existing wastewater treatment plant, the Alcorta facility currently has the capacity to achieve the high flow and quality standards required by TCCC for years to come. The implementation of MBR technology allowed the existing Sequential Batch Reactor (SBR) to be converted to Continuous Bioreactor with submerged membranes (Airlift).

The innovative MBR system reduced the required space compared to a conventional treatment system and has the capacity to handle higher concentrations of sludge. The installed system produces treatment water suitable for direct reuse into the facility.

The treated water could be treated in the future using reverse osmosis membranes to reduce dissolved solids content to low levels providing high quality water to the facility's users.

With a tight timeline required by Coke FEMA, the system was built and delivered in only 75 days. Fluence technicians and engineers commissioned the project, including the biological components, and trained the plant operators in just 15 days.

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Conclusions

The installed MBR system is operating as intended and producing excellent results. The Fluence technical team continues to provide ongoing support to the Alcorta facility as it seems to continuously improve efficiency and reliability of the

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Value from Water

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