



Jan Gerrit Grooters

TenCate embraces process safety

PROCESS SAFETY IS AN AREA WHERE COMPANIES CAN INCREASINGLY DISTINGUISH THEMSELVES IN THE MARKET. DUTCH SAFETY-WEAR MANUFACTURER TENCATE FOCUSED ON PROCESS SAFETY FOR A NEW CONTINUOUS PRODUCTION LINE AT THEIR LOCATION IN NIJVERDAL, THE NETHERLANDS.

explore how to apply it in an engineering project of this size', says Henri Aal, manager Technology from TenCate Protective Fabrics.

to be assessed and evaluated before progressing further. 'As part of the approach on collaboration in technical safety we needed to ensure that new ways of thinking and working were thoroughly explained using tools as best practices'.

Taking initiatives

TenCate is renowned worldwide for manufacturing high-performance protective fabrics, and the new production line was for applying ammonia to textiles to make them heat-resistant and flame-retardant. This entailed primarily with a process safety study, a Hazard and Operability Analysis (HAZOP) study, followed by ad-hoc interventions with advice and support and ultimate close-out. 'We asked Bilfinger Tebodin to provide technical and process safety instruction and

'We worked with them, as a true partner, and this helped to establish a firm basis of trust', says Jan Gerrit Grooters, Business Manager Process Integrity & Safety at Bilfinger Tebodin.

Understanding client needs

The element of trust was especially important on this project, as it was a unique design, that didn't exist anywhere in the world. The greatest challenge was getting the project to maturity, as there were many adaptations throughout the project and each new iteration had

Beyond expectations

This is an area where Grooters sees substantial opportunity. 'Process safety studies are increasingly important; industries have a 'burden of proof' to their stakeholders and shareholders, to pro-actively demonstrate that their installations are intrinsically safe. On the other side of the coin, industries are now anticipating the requirements of permitting and approvals and are actually going the extra mile, beyond the minimum acceptable specifications. In doing so, they become a trustworthy partner in the chain.'

Partnership

Affirming the value of just such an approach, Henri Aal commented: 'Bilfinger Tebodin was certainly the right partner for us in this project. Their pro-active and hands-on approach and continued interest and support helped us to embrace process safety and the technical aspects of safety further. And resulted in several improvements. We quickly established a high level of mutual trust, and this provided an excellent basis for effective collaboration.' ■

TenCate facility in Nijverdal the Netherlands

