



CASE STUDY

Coal Blend Developments

OBJECTIVES

- Technical support to identify new/optimum blend components and maximise use of semi-soft coals, with particular reference to the needs of the customer.
- Secure flexibility of coal supplies.

DELIVERY

A sample of a new coal is characterised in terms of its chemical and rheological properties to assess its suitability for inclusion in the customer's blend. If the properties of the coal are acceptable, an evaluation sample is requested from the Supplier. Evaluation of the carbonisation behaviour of the coal in a blend is then conducted in the 350 kg movable wall pilot test oven, where carbonisation conditions and gas pressures are monitored. Resultant coke properties versus the customer's current standard blend are then determined. The aim is to improve/maintain coke quality at reduced cost. Provided the coal can successfully be implemented in the coking blend, a long-term contract at an attractive rate would deliver cost savings when incorporating a less expensive coal in the customer's blend.







BENEFITS

Research work in coal blend developments delivered substantial cost benefits to customers over several years (see below). For example, a programme started in 2006 had an increasingly strong effect on blend cost for a customer, realising annual savings of £7m by 2009.

Realised annual savings against the customer's standard blend cost:

2005 - £1.3 m / 2006 - £2.3 m / 2007 - £4.9 m / 2008 - £4.8 m / 2009 - £7.0 m





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