

Mobile Water System Improves Consumer Product

Challenge

A manufacturer of fabric softener operated a two-step ion exchange demineralizer system to provide product blend water for a batch production process. The system was aged, becoming costly to maintain and unreliable. Water produced by the system was not consistently meeting new quality standards, and unexpected maintenance events occasionally slowed down the production process. A replacement system was sought, but could not be approved in the current year capital budget.

Solution

The manufacturer had employed a GE mobile demineralizer system on various occasions to meet emergency needs when its demineralizer system was shut down for repair. The MobileFlow® system, a three step design that includes a mixed bed polisher, provided a higher purity water that exceeded the more stringent product specifications. It was decided that the old system would be temporarily retired and the MobileFlow system would be used to ensure production efficiency and reliability until budget approval could be obtained to replace the aged system.

Results

The mobile system reliably provided the required water quality and quantity. The service included all maintenance and chemical regeneration performed off site by GE, and the performance of the system was guaranteed. After some months of use of the MobileFlow system, an evaluation was done to compare its performance and cost with that of the retired demineralizer system and the proposed replacement. Based on improvements in the process and product quality, and savings on maintenance,

operating labor, chemicals, city water and waste water treatment, the plant decided to opt for long term use of the MobileFlow system. It has proven cost effective, has provided more consistent product quality, and its higher flow capacity speeds the batch production process, all without capital investment.



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Global Headquarters
Trevose, PA
+1-215-355-3300

Americas
Watertown, MA
+1-617-926-2500

Europe/Middle East/Africa
Heverlee, Belgium
+32-16-40-20-00

Asia/Pacific
Shanghai, China
+86-21-5298-4573

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