



History Domsjö Fabriker

The new mill

On November 11, 1903, a telegram was wired with the following text: "First cooking ready, pulp even and superb". Frans and Seth Kempe, sons of the founder of Mo & Domsjö, J C Kempe, were the first men in Sweden to carry out tests on a method for producing sulphite pulp. During the first full financial year, they produced 5,978 tons. The mill had 150 employees and its annual capacity amounted to 6,000 tons.

1910s

The workforce at the mill increased to 245 established employees. Production rose dramatically, and by 1919 its output was 17,220 tons. Market conditions at that time were very favourable, and the pulp was sold on contract for many years ahead. Sunday was the only day off and there were no holidays. The first holiday compensation was paid in 1919 - seven kronor per day for three days over midsummer. The same year also saw the formation of a union at the mill.

1920s

In 1920, pulp prices reached an all-time high of 627 kronor per ton. Two years later, the price had plummeted to 166 kronor. In 1922 the company suffered from liquidity problems and the mill was shut down for 125 days. Substantial wage cuts, up to 40 per cent, were made. Conditions then stabilised and in 1923 the first bleach plant was brought into production. By the end of the twenties the mill was already able to bleach its entire annual production of around 50,000 tons. In 1920, the first collective agreement was reached with the new union, and a 48-hour working week was introduced.

1930s

Higher production levels increased demands on quality heavily, and the first cellulose lab was opened in 1931. From the mid-thirties the main product was viscose pulp, which required precise chemical control. The entire 1930s were a decade of continuous development, during which the mill installed its seventh digester house and a second dryer.

A chlorine factory was opened in 1936 to supply the bleach plant with chlorine. In 1939, the mill's output amounted to almost 65,000 tons of pulp.

1940s

By now, the mill was one of the few suppliers of viscose pulp in the world, which enabled it to earn healthy margins during the war years. In greatest demand was viscose pulp for the manufacture of uniforms. The mill also produced fodder pulp, which was mixed with molasses to make cattle fodder. The alcohol factory was built



in 1940; the company began to produce special pulps, such as photo- and plastic pulps. In 1949 the mill produced 64,000 tons.

1950s

The change from calcium to sodium as the basis of production was the main innovation at the mill in the 1950s. The change was made in 1959, and made it possible to recover 90 per cent of the base chemicals and 50 per cent of the sulphur. However, this required the construction of a steam boiler, an evaporation plant and a recovery plant, in which melt from the boiler unit was processed into feed lye. Hence, these investment projects were carried out. At the beginning of the 1950s, the mill introduced a bleaching process that made use of chlorine dioxide. In 1954, the mill began to operate on Sundays. In 1957, production amounted to 100,163 tons.

1960s

The storage of wood chips in rolls was replaced by stacking. The new wood-handling system was ready by 1964 and included a new wood intake system that was complemented with process equipment for debarking and centrifugal dryers for bark combustion. There was also a new installation for receiving wood from trucks. To complement the new boiler house, a flue gas scrubber was also built to remove sulphur dioxide from the fumes. Air pollution declined markedly, as did the consumption of sulphur. A chlorate plant was constructed at Domsjö in 1966. The mill now remained in production during major public holidays. In 1969, the mill's output amounted to 181,047 tons.

1970s

The decade was characterized by environmental improvements, much due to the inauguration of a new bleach plant in 1976, and the construction of two sedimentation basins. Fan dryers were installed and the cooking capacity was raised. Production was increased from 180,000 to 225,000 tons per year. At the end of the decade, the mill invested in a new control system for the sulphite cooking process. In 1979 the mill produced what, at the time, was thought to be the last of no fewer than 15 million bales of viscose pulp. One had reason to expect this as demands declined considerably and production costs were high.

1980s

The deresination plant was opened in 1980. This global innovation enabled the chip stacks to be reduced by no less than 90 per cent. In 1982, a new wood-handling system was introduced which included a short wood drum. In 1985 the country's, at the time, largest biological treatment was opened, which had a very positive effect on emissions from the mill. December of the same year saw the inauguration of the



CTMP mill, which had a rated capacity of 65,000 tons per year. AGA's new carbon dioxide plant, with its annual capacity of 10,000 tons, was completed in the same year. A permanent six-shift system was introduced in 1989; production that year reached 205,750 tons.

1990s

In the autumn of 1990, the bleach plant was rebuilt for the conversion to chlorine-free bleaching. In the following year, a new product, MoDo Crown 90P, was bleached to the same high brightness as in the days of chlorine bleaching. The mill was the first in the world to produce this environmentally friendly product bleached with hydrogen peroxide. In connection to this, the bleach plant process was closed, and emissions into water from the plant ceased. In the spring of 1993, the mill revived production of viscose pulp (dissolving pulp), and in 1999 it accounted for 55 per cent of total production, which amounted to 194,000 tons for that year. During the early years of the 1990s, production of chlorine, chlorate and CTMP pulp was phased out, followed in October 1996 by an announcement from the MoDo Group that the sulphite mill would also be closed down - a decision that was reversed when the mill was put up for sale some years later.

2000

On the 31st of December 1999, the MoDo Group sold the mill to a private consortium. Behind the trust were six private individuals who expressed intention to invest in the future development of the mill. The new names of the productions became Domsjö Dissolving Plus, Domsjö Dissolving and Domsjö ECO Bright. At the year 2003, the mill celebrated its 100 year anniversary by donating a bust representing the founder of the mill, Frans Kempe, to the municipality of Örnsköldsvik. The bust has since then emblazed the square Sjötorget, located in the inner harbor of Örnsköldsvik, overlooking his former domains.

A lot of investments were made during the 21st century to increase the production and quality, as well as to develop new products in the company. Many important steps were made in the development towards a valid biorefinery. By the year 2005, the company had 340 employees and the production amounted to 186 000 tons, whence 85 percent consisted of dissolving cellulose and 15 percent consisted of Domsjö Eco Bright.

The pulp production ceased after some time and the name of the cellulose product changed into Domsjö Cellulose. To emphasize that it wasn't a bulk product they also changed the name of the concept from mass/dissolving mass to cellulose/special cellulose.



During 2006, Domsjö Fabriker struck its all-time record in produced dissolving cellulose and reached a production level of 176 000 tons. Meanwhile the development of the biorefinery continued with its business area of generating its three main products cellulose, lignosulfonate and ethanol.

At the fall of 2007 the development program called Domsjö 2010 was launched and almost one half a billion SEK were invested in the program. The ability to dry lignin was one of many important partial projects and the first machine to do so was ready in the year 2009.

The market situation for the biorefinerys major products cellulose, lignin and ethanol were very favorable during a long time. This positive market development brought high and constant prices, and during many years the company reported very favorable financial results. The investments amounted to meager 850 million in the facility during the years 2000 to 2009.

2010

In the boards endeavor to make the development proceed, they decided to invest another 300 million SEK into the company. The goal was to modernize the equipment used in the debarking facility and to build another machine to dry the lignin.

The dry lignin had a very favorable development on the market where the redoubled drying capacity resulted in a redoubled amount of dried lignin. This in turn delivered a greater possibility to focus on product development, as to add value and increase the quality of the products. Meanwhile plans were made regarding the construct of a facility that would produce the biofule BioDME.

To assure that the plans for the facility would proceed, other plans were made to reach an extended ownership, and the first discussion concerned stock exchange listing. But the mill was later, in April 2011, bought by the indian corporation Aditya Birla Group, who had a lot of knowledge about Domsjö Fabriker since they had been one of Domsjös costumers for many years. The plans for the production facility regarding BioDME were put on hold and instead the investments continued on the existing production.

