

# Review of the 2006 SASTA Conference in Durban

## Introduction

The International Conference Centre (ICC) in Durban is a world-class conference venue and the decision to hold the 80th South Africa Sugar Technologist Association meeting there during July was a good one. The event was well attended, with over 30 exhibitors, by both domestic and international delegates.

## Thomas Broadbent & Sons Ltd.

Broadbent has centrifugals installed throughout South Africa and neighbouring countries such as Mozambique and Zimbabwe. Broadbent's focus has always been on the efficient operation of their centrifugals and this was demonstrated by the paper presented by Sean Jaganath, factory manager of Tongaat Hulett's Felixton factory. The paper covered improvements to their batch centrifugal wash system using the latest Broadbent wash technology. The result was savings in wash water consumption and improved sugar colour with the associated benefits of higher brix and lower purity molasses.

Broadbent's partner in South Africa is Techserve who are well known in the region for their turnkey work and supply of unit equipment. Projects recently completed by Broadbent/Techserve include the expansion of the centrifugal station at TSB's Komati mill and the installation of new Broadbent batch centrifugal at Tongaat Hulett's Felixton factory on their new direct white production process.

## Fletcher Smith Ltd

Fletcher Smith Limited, one of the key companies in the Fives Cail Group has been regularly present at the SASTA conference for many years. This year's conference saw fewer foreign exhibitors and delegates but was well supported by the local South African sugar industry as usual.

Fletcher Smith and the Fives Cail group continue to enjoy a special relationship with South African sugar manufacturers and Tongaat Hulett in particular with whom they have a technology mar-



keting agreement. The group is now actively seeking a South African representative to improve the service to the South African Sugar Industry. Fletcher Smith Limited has recently sold Continuous Vacuum Pans and Cane Diffusers to African customers using Tongaat Hulett technology and worldwide the Fives Cail Group is by far the leading supplier of Continuous Vacuum Pans.

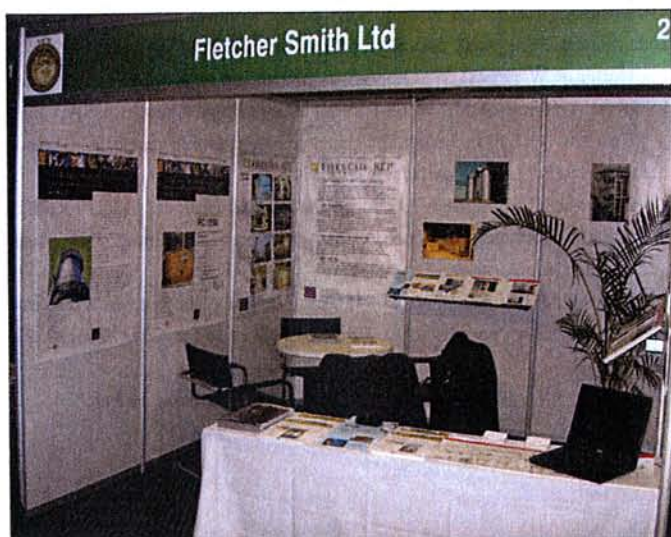
Fives Cail Group centrifugals handle more than 25 million metric tons of sugar every year worldwide, offering a complete range covering all applications: beet, cane and refining. Today more than 4,000 Fives Cail Group centrifugals installations are providing high-performance service around the world. Fives Cail Group's continuous development program ensures regular improvement of its centrifugals which are recognized for their solid construction and reliability. Manufactured at the Group's production centre under rigorous quality control conditions, the machines comply with the most stringent international standards.

## Praj Industries Limited

Praj stall at SASTA 06 pulled a lot of interested visitors who were keen to understand technologies employed by PRAJ for fuel ethanol production. Being a leader in Ethanol Technology globally, PRAJ demonstrated different technologies through their posters, which included various cane streams as well as SMART DISTILLERY which can switch between different raw materials. PRAJ also had on display, information on wastewater treatment solutions. Seen here are Mr. Malikarjun, Vice President, Africa Region with visitors at the stall.

Praj is a leading Ethanol Technology Company with a number of processes and systems for ethanol production to its credit. With over 350 references in 35 countries across 5 continents, Praj has acquired an international repute with its own offices in Bogota (Colombia), Bangkok (Thailand), Johannesburg (South Africa) and Sharjah (UAE), apart from India and very soon in USA.

Praj's distinction lies in its ability to offer solutions for a range of



raw materials right from cane molasses to grains and tubers like cas-sava and now sweet sorghum. Praj provides holistic solutions encom- passing range of technologies and systems for wastewater manage- ment, which makes its solutions unique.



*pro/M/tec Theisen GmbH*

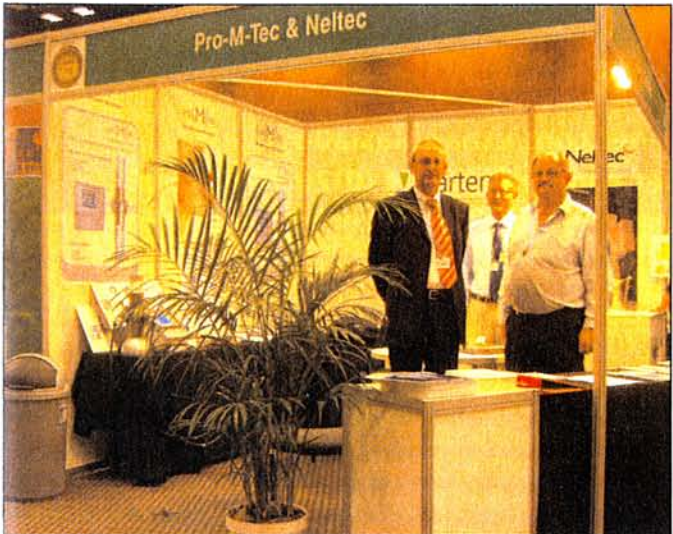
For the 2nd year in succession at SASTA 2006, Mr Karl-Heinz Theisen's presentation on pro/M/tec's microwave technology and its applications in the sugar industry, aroused a lot of interest

South Africa is one of the leading sugar producing country in Africa and its industry is progressive. It welcomes the new microwave technology to support and improve the sugar production process.

Over the last few years, microwave sensors have become standard brix measurement tool to enable a reliable and fully automatic control of the crystallisation process. Besides this first and main application, the attendees showed a significant interest in other applications like inline juice measurement of any type (thin, thick, outlet of melter etc). A good juice measurement at the different evaporation steps allows to save energy consumption by a better control of the process.

proMtec is the worldwide leading manufacturer of microwave technology offering a complete range of microwave sensors suitable for the sugar industry.

Microwave is already in use in South Africa and pro/M/tec is quite confident about further development of this market in South Africa.



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