

## **Media Release of September 06, 2012**

# **LEWA GmbH and Burckhardt Compression AG Join Forces**

It seems that fossil fuels will continue to be the primary source of energy in the decades to come. However, solutions for the accompanying problems – for example the creation of greenhouse gases – have to be provided. LEWA GmbH and Burckhardt Compression AG have taken up the challenge of this task. In the future both enterprises are going to jointly manufacture systems that not only increase the production capacity of oil, but simultaneously decrease the emission of ecologically harmful gases.

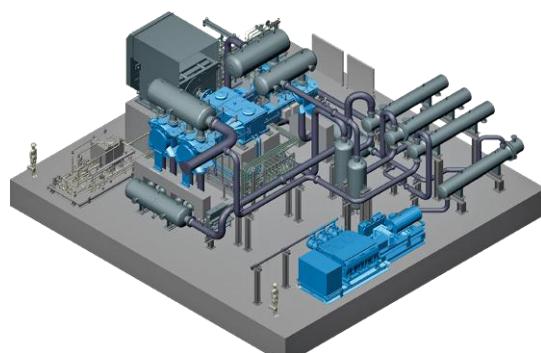
Since the global oil reserves keep dwindling, methods of enhanced oil recovery (EOR) have been deployed in the extraction of oil for many years. In this process, chemicals or gases like carbon dioxide are injected into oil fields in order to increase the underground pressure and reduce the crude oil's viscosity. Thus the oil is virtually pressed upward. Thanks to this method the yield of a reservoir can be up to 60 %, whereas only 20 % to 40 % can be achieved with primary and secondary recovery.

In the course of the partnership between Lewa and Burckhardt Compression this EOR will be combined with the carbon capture & storage technology (CCS). The seminal CCS technology is arguably one of the most effective means to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. This is because acid gases, such as hydrogen sulphide ( $H_2S$ ) and carbon dioxide, that occur during oil production are captured and sequestered. Afterwards they are stored in underground rock formations.

### **A joint approach to achieve higher efficiency and more environmental sustainability**

The agreement that was officially sealed during a meeting in Leonberg on August 27, 2012, unites competence leaders from the fields of pumps and compressors: Lewa is the leading manufacturer of process diaphragm pumps and metering and mixing packages for process engineering. Burckhardt Compression is one of the world's largest manufacturers of reciprocating compressors. The company is recognized as the only compressor manufacturer of a complete range of Laby® (labyrinth piston), Laby®-GI, Process Gas, and Hyper compressors.

With their combined know-how the companies have managed to develop a process that allows for a highly energy efficient compression. Unlike ordinary compression processes this so-called hybrid approach makes use of an intermediate step: the gas liquefaction. First, the semi isothermal compression is conducted in multiple stages by the reciprocating compressors from Burckhardt



Plant layout for compressing  $CO_2$ : 3-stage Process Gas Compressor API 618 with LEWA triplex diaphragm pump

Compression. After that, cooling and liquefaction follow. Eventually a LEWA triplex diaphragm pump boosts the liquid up to the required pressure (up to over 400 bar).

The overall power saving due to liquefaction can be up to 15 % because the power consumption for the compression of liquids is lower than for gases. Operators also benefit in other ways: corrosion problems that in case of carbon dioxide occur in compressors at relatively low pressures can be avoided in the liquid phase. Furthermore, variable flow rates and gas compositions can be handled by the use of speed control, thus enabling a constant high efficiency. Also changes in the reservoir pressure are not disruptive because the system boosts the liquid to the final pressure in one single step.

However, the cooperation is not limited to the joint development and manufacture of these systems. In order to facilitate a trouble-free planning phase, and, subsequently, a perfect functioning, the partners are constantly exchanging information – with each other and the future system users. Thus the expertise of both partners is available to the customers at consultancy meetings as well as during engineering and before and after the initial commissioning.

### **High reliability even for demanding requirements**

The limit for piston compressors and diaphragm pumps lies at approximately 150 t/h of acid gas. In terms of carbon capture & storage, the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of many carbon dioxide generating processes and fossil fuelled power plants of 200 - 300 MW can be handled with one set of machines. Power plants of 200 - 400 MW would need two or three sets of machines. The range above (up to 1200 MW) would be the field of multistage turbo compressors. Such extreme requirements pose a big challenge to the sealing systems of a package. In order to meet this challenge typical Lewa qualities like hermetic tightness of diaphragm pumps and the broad experience of Burckhardt Compression in the field of CO<sub>2</sub> compression, especially within the supercritical area, are crucial.



Naota Shikano, Managing Director of Lewa, and Marcel Pawlicek, CEO of Burckhardt Compression, signing the contract in Leonberg, Germany.

## **About Burckhardt Compression**

Burckhardt Compression is one of the worldwide market leaders in the field of reciprocating compressors and the only manufacturer that offers a complete range of Laby® (labyrinth piston), Process Gas, and Hyper Compressors. The compressors are used to compress, cool or liquefy gases. Burckhardt Compression's customers include multinational companies active in the chemical, petrochemical, refinery, industrial gas and gas transport and storage industries. With the leading compressor technology, the high-quality compressor components and the comprehensive range of services Burckhardt Compression supports its customers in their effort to minimize the life cycle costs of their reciprocating compressor systems.

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