



Welcome



IFBS recently celebrated its 10th anniversary with a client function where we shared stories of projects past and celebrated successes. Since its inception in 1990, IFBS has grown strongly building its experience in an increasing range of food and beverage industries around the globe. Our track record of projects locally and in countries such as

Malaysia, China, Argentina and Brazil is a source of pride to IFBS staff.

IFBS is fortunate to have a loyal team who have recently been joined by four new staff in the Auckland office. Together with our Australian office, this brings our core team to over 60 specialists, who can also draw on the expertise and resources of the wider Beca Group.

For our clients this growth can only mean even better service. We are already privileged to have repeat business from many of you and will continue to strive to understand your business drivers, add value and find new ways to help your business grow.

*Mike Kelly
General Manager, IFBS*

International BOOST

BOOST - IFBS's brewery capacity modelling software - was developed about five years ago and is now one of our international success stories. The software is a cost effective tool to help management and engineering staff solve capacity bottlenecks and has already demonstrated its value to several major brewing groups in a total of six countries. BOOST has been used to verify the design of greenfield breweries, assist in answering "what if?" scenarios and help with capex approval plans. The latest evidence of success is an invitation to present BOOST at Drinktec Interbrau in Munich this September. Held every four years, Drinktec Interbrau is the largest international trade exhibition for the brewing industry so the invitation is a considerable coup for IFBS.

*For further information,
contact Felix Seitz DDI 09-300 9694 / Email: fseitz@beca.co.nz*



Versatility key to success

Access to a broad range of valuable skills is a feature of IFBS that is particularly attractive to clients old and new. To illustrate, last year IFBS provided assistance to a major food industry client covering an extensive array of services, ranging from strategic support to temporarily filling a vacant operational management role.

The complete list included:

- project management and cost control services to help complete a major project;
- scope definition and project management for installation of a new boiler;
- a filling line survey to determine bottlenecks (resulting in a 40% improvement in efficiency);
- an assessment of engineering resources to help maximise plant availability;
- process design improvements;
- updating and standardising functional descriptions and improving practices to lift operational efficiency;
- technical support for CAPEX requirements while the client recruited a permanent employee;
- long term development planning;
- feasibility studies for major initiatives;
- architectural and civil design for site and regional buildings.

This diverse capability is available to all our clients, large or small, across the food and beverage sector and the value is obvious. Robert Ross (IFBS's client relationship manager for the company featured here) comments, "The one-stop-shop approach has clear benefits for the client. They can be confident that IFBS understands their business, doesn't need to be re-briefed on their objectives or operational needs for each new issue and won't overlook opportunities because of knowledge gaps."

*For further information,
contact Robert Ross DDI 09-300 9675 / Email: rross@beca.co.nz*

Relocation, relocation, relocation!

When Pillsbury decided early last year to relocate a fresh pasta plant from Wellington to Auckland, IFBS helped them achieve their goal of improved efficiency with minimum financial impact.

The commission involved locating a suitable building, modifying it, designing the layout, installing services and moving in the manufacturing equipment which was a jigsaw of existing, new and second-hand plant sourced by IFBS.

"The main pasta processing equipment came from different sites. It was already incomplete, before we discarded pieces in favour of new plant, including thermoform packing machinery, metal detectors, conveyors and equipment to fill and close cartons," says IFBS Project Manager Cameron Russell. "On the sauce production side, plant from the Wellington site had to be integrated with new kettles, a main processing platform, transfer pumps and product cooling systems." Steam, refrigeration, hot water and HVAC services were also a carefully pieced combination of new and re-used machinery.

Finding a building to house all this equipment was a challenge in itself as there are few suitable for quality food processing in Auckland at any one time. The East Tamaki site was chosen from a shortlist of four. Formerly used to make pizza, the basic structure was fine but damage from removal of equipment, installation of new drains, changes to the floor gradient to accommodate the pasta plant and construction of offices and QA labs meant the hygiene envelope had to be redeveloped to Pillsbury's high standards.

The key to the whole relocation puzzle was a comprehensive 3-D model of the new layout. This ensured accurate placement of machinery, identified new equipment needs and guided modifications. Conveyors, in



particular, were altered significantly to ensure the pasta sheets remained whole and weren't stretched in their journey along the processing line. The model also helped plan the running order for relocating and commissioning equipment and services to minimise production downtime. Plus, working from a solid design base meant tenders could be accurately scoped, minimising variations and keeping the project to budget.

"Often businesses know that shifting, or consolidating sites will bring long-term benefits," says IFBS General Manager Mike Kelly. "However, the logistics and costs can be off-putting. With its broad client base, industry knowledge and design engineering skill, IFBS is well placed to source and integrate equipment, locate buildings and generally reduce the risk."

For further information, contact Cameron Russell DDI 09-300 9683 | Email: crussell@beca.co.nz

Try before you buy

It's the ideal consumer scenario but when it's production improvements you need things can get a little tricky. However, with IFBS's simulation modelling tools clients can assess the impact of a variety of system modifications before they make any capital investment.

One of IFBS's Asian clients was keen to increase production but retain their existing hot water boiler, to avoid the bureaucracy and cost involved in getting a larger one. The modelling software created a virtual replica of the plant to analyse its hot water use and explore any potential for heat recovery to help meet the needs of the planned expansion.

Using the model, a day's production - complete with batching cycles, tank heating jackets, washdown and CIP - was compressed into ten minutes of computer thinking time. This allowed a range of new heat saving ideas to be tested in an afternoon, without spending a cent on plant.

The result? The model proved that by installing two heat recovery exchangers and refining the control system, the client could achieve their goal without jumping hurdles for a bigger boiler, or (as was initially presumed) paying for an additional storage tank. IFBS is now making the recommended changes, with the client confident that their needs will be met by the pre-modelled improvements.

For further information, contact Mike Kelly DDI 09-300 9674 | Email: mkelly@beca.co.nz

IFBS Head Office

Level 2, 21 Pitt Street, PO Box 7212, Auckland, New Zealand, Ph +64-9-300 9600, Fax +64-9-300 9601, ifbs@beca.co.nz, www.ifbs.co.nz

All projects in this newsletter have been featured with the knowledge and approval of the client concerned.