

Under the same blue sky

Companies and people who help to keep
the sky clean and blue

Experiences in the Fine Chemicals Industry

ICT FILTRACIÓN

Bags, Fabrics and High-Technology, Eco-Efficient
Solutions for Industrial Filtration



Manufacturer of carboxylic acid derivatives

CHEMICALS

FACI METALEST, subsidiary in Spain of FACI S.p.A.

Founded in Zaragoza, Spain, in 1966, FACI METALEST has been on its current site in the Malpica industrial estate, Zaragoza, since 1980. Its activity is centred on manufacturing metallic soaps: stearates, esters and dryers for paint. FACI METALEST is the subsidiary in Spain of the FACI S.p.A. group, number one in the world in the manufacture of stearates.

www.metalest.es



Originally devoted to the manufacture of metallic stearates, today the business of FACI METALEST is centred on the manufacture of carboxylic acid derivatives.

Technically, these products are metallic salts and esters, with fatty acids of animal and/or vegetable origin and acids and/or diacids of a synthetic nature.

In general, these products are used as lubricants due to their greasy nature, as stabilisers and catalysts due to their metal content, and as dispersants and helpers in processes due to their mixed nature. They are products which are used in a wide range of sectors.

Belonging to the FACI group, one of the world leaders in this speciality, generates synergy in commercial, production and research work which assures a high level of trust and loyalty in the different fields where it works.

FACI METALEST is four plants in one, four production lines on one site. Two of them are used to manufacture stearates by solid-solid fusion or stearates by precipitation. Another is for esters and the other for dryers. Stearates are used in a wide variety of sectors, from construction to food. They are additives to other end products which are purchased by customers: additives for other industries, never end products. FACI METALEST buys the raw material and produces these stearates, esters or dryers.

Where the product is bought by the end customer it is possible to know its final destination, what it is for and what product it consists of. However, the customer is not always the manufacturer of the end product – it is perfectly possible for them to be an intermediary in the manufacturing process or a distributor. In this case it cannot always be determined what end product the FACI METALEST product goes into.





Eduardo Sicilia
Factory manager

Eduardo Sicilia (31) is an engineer and the head of the production plant at Malpica.

The plant destines 65% of its output to international markets and has a workforce of 42 professionals.

Eduardo is keen on Team Penning, a Western-style equestrian sport which developed out of a traditional ranch job consisting of separating out cattle to brand them, carry out veterinary checks or take them from one place to another.

Team Penning today has become a fast, exciting event in which a team is made up of three riders who have to separate three cattle from a herd of 30 and drive them into a pen.

A product with such a wide spectrum of uses in sectors as diverse as those mentioned above must also meet a range of different quality requirements.

In the building industry, for example, there is a series of quality policies which we meet, such as ISO 9001.

If we look at the food or pharmaceutical industries the standards to meet are ISO 22000, those of the FDA: good practice, critical point control analysis and so on. Naturally, we also meet the environmental standards laid down in ISO 14000.

Fitting together the four product lines mentioned above makes FACI METALEST an innovative company.

It is not easy to find a single company which makes stearates, esters and dryers. There are many manufacturers of each of these things but the distinctive feature of FACI METALEST is that we produce all four of the above-mentioned lines.

This diversification sets us apart on the market.

Another distinctive feature of FACI METALEST is flexibility and the ability to adapt to meet its customers' needs.

Correct. We are highly flexible and adaptable in the sense that we can organise our production capacity very quickly to meet specific requests by our customers. For example, if a client needs a drum of product of a particular volume, they are unlikely to get no for an answer, even where this means modifying our usual standards.



A real focus on service...

Of course. First deal with the customer's requirement, urgent need or problem. Even if this means extra effort which in many cases increases costs, we plan production in such a way as to make almost everything possible.

What are the emission risks in your production processes?

In the stearate plants, there are risks in the conveyance of the product, which is pneumatic, using air.

When we move the product by this means, driven by fans, before and after these fans we have filter bags which allow the air to come out at the end of the process but keep the product in.

We have to prevent emissions of the product, because this would represent a cost due to wastage, and of course control the risk of polluting emissions.

Are there filters in all the stearate plants?

Yes, at the different stages in pneumatic transport in all the stearate plants. We use ICT FILTRACIÓN bags for this transport.



And in the other plants?

In the ester and dryer plants we use press filters with fabrics and papers supplied by ICT FILTRACIÓN. In this case we filter liquids in the final part of the product manufacturing process to give it the necessary purity and shine. We also treat water. The risk in these cases is that a broken fabric or paper directly affects the quality of the end product and pushes costs up sharply.

What average particle size are we talking about with stearates?

Between 6 and 10 microns on average. In esters and dryers it depends on the impurities in the product, but we are talking about ppm.

When there is not much difference between the filters of consumables you use, what makes FACI METALEST decide on one supplier or another?

In the case of ICT FILTRACIÓN, it is the people who work in it. Once you know what type of bag you need, whether it has to be polypropylene or some other material, and you know the weight you require, any supplier could supply the order and match prices.

The difference is therefore not in the product or the price, but in the service the company's people provide.

Where can you tell the difference?

For example, in the flexibility of the delivery service. You can tell when you have an urgent, one-off need. ICT FILTRACIÓN responds. We also appreciate efforts to keep costs down when all of us, as links in the chain, have had to make the same effort. I appreciate this because in turn it helps FACI METALEST to adapt and better meet its customers' needs.

I know that ICT FILTRACIÓN negotiates with its suppliers every year to hold or cut costs in order to pass this on to its customers, without affecting the quality of its product.

“At ICT FILTRACIÓN we work to build up the eco-efficiency of the product and improve its price because we are constantly pursuing new solutions”

ICT FILTRACIÓN, based in Montgat, Barcelona, is one of Europe's leading manufacturers of bags, fabrics and high-technology eco-efficient solutions for industrial filtering of dust, air, liquids and fluids. ICT FILTRACIÓN designs, manufactures and markets high-quality services and products, both standard and customised, for industrial applications with a risk of emission of particles into the atmosphere in sectors such as aluminium, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, cement and food, among others. ICT FILTRACIÓN products and services are exported to countries on all five continents, their goal being to help companies to be more competitive and responsible by fostering, guaranteeing and facilitating a balance between maximum industrial development and minimum environmental impact.

The ICT FILTRACIÓN workforce is the key to its specialisation and potential in areas of knowledge such as research into new materials, developing new production technology and designing innovative techniques for manufacturing and finishing.



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