

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

EQ ESTEVE

Advanced intermediates and active ingredients

FINE CHEMICALS

ESTEVE QUÍMICA, S.A.

Esteve Química, S.A. develops, manufactures and markets advanced intermediates and active pharmaceutical ingredients for the pharmaceutical industry. It is among the leading concerns in its sector and the only one with its own industrial business in Europe, the Americas and Asia.

www.esteve.es



The ESTEVE QUÍMICA production plant at Banyeres del Penedès (Tarragona, Spain) is located 75km south of Barcelona and covers an area of 20,000m². With over 30 years' experience behind it, the plant manufactures pharmaceutical active ingredients and advanced intermediates for the national and international markets.

Its annual output is 130 tonnes of end product, destined for export to regulated markets, principally the USA and Europe.

The plant works in accordance with cGMP (international guide to good manufacturing practice) and ISO14001 standards and since 1998 has been regularly audited by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration.

The factory covers an area of 7,000m² and has a production capacity of 35m³, with room to expand this up to 70m³ on the existing site, with a range of reactors (made from stainless steel and enamelled) from 2 to 4m³ for reactions from -10° C up to 220° C.

It also has a drying building with two vacuum rotary dryers of 1.5 and 2m³. Moreover, it is equipped with a waste gas treatment station (physical-chemical, biological and tertiary treatment by active carbon filtering).

At the plant there is a team of people dedicated to process research and development, attached to the R&D Department, with a modern pilot plant built in 2001 in line with the most demanding quality standards.

This plant has a reaction capacity of 1.75m³ and is equipped with reactors (made from stainless steel and enamelled) from 0.25 to 0.50m³, Hastelloy nutsche filter and centrifuge and 0.35m³ vacuum rotary dryer. This facility also works in accordance with GMP.

EQ ESTEVE



Juan Díaz
Plant Manager

Juan Díaz (54) is a chemical engineer with 30 years of experience at Esteve Química. In the little spare time his responsibilities at the Banyeres del Penedès production plant allow him, he is a keen walker.

The ESTEVE QUÍMICA plant at Banyeres del Penedès is specialised in the production of active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs).

Exactly. We are in the fine chemicals sector, in the fields of both research and production. At this plant we produce APIs, active pharmaceutical ingredients, for our own laboratories and for third parties.

Most APIs are solid.

At the plant we separate solids out using centrifuges fitted with filter material. Then we dry the solids and, where necessary, we treat them to get our end product, the API.

Due to the features of your specialisation, centrifuge bags and pockets have to meet the ATEX standard.

For separating solids from their mother waters we use centrifuges with ICT FILTRACIÓN centrifuge bags and pockets.

They are made from anti-static polypropylene in line with ATEX standards. Textile material is also used during the operation of discharging product from the dryers, sleeves normally made of ATEX anti-static polypropylene which in our case are also tailor-made. These ICT FILTRACIÓN sleeves not only carry the solids but also contain them, preventing losses of end product.

Transport is from one production process to another, for example loading product into a container or conveying it from the dryer to apparatus to reduce the particle size...

That's it. The sleeves have the twin function of carrying and containing the solids. In the case of the dryers we use conventional ATEX polyester cylinders, and sometimes Teflon ones, both from ICT FILTRACIÓN.

You work in rooms with a controlled environment, with air handlers.

We work in areas with a controlled environment with pressure differentials between areas, of course. We take air into and out of the rooms using air handling units.

In this process we have to stop outside contaminants getting in and, logically, stop the product, the pharmaceutical ingredient, getting out, using the air handlers with filters for this.

Are we talking about microfiltration?

Yes, we use absolute filters, as in the case of the recrystallisation processes responsible for purification, where absolute-type filtering is necessary, as it is the last step before getting the end product.

You also conduct research at the plant.

A distinctive feature of our production plant is that a fifth of our workforce is in a R&D department devoted to developing chemical processes for our customers.

And you also have a "semi-industrialisation" process...

Yes, the Pilot Plant is the intermediate point between development and industrial production. We call this "semi-industrialising".

In the Pilot Plan everything is to scale, the testing ground before actual industrial production.

Are ICT FILTRACIÓN products also used in the Pilot Plant?

There too, because it has the same filtering and containment needs but on a smaller scale.

One filtering installation is a nutsche filter fitted with discs to separate out solids from their mother waters.

We also use low pressure bags for GAF-type filters. These bags work at up to 3 bars.



What is your experience with ICT FILTRACIÓN?

Fungible and consumable items for industrial filtering are differentiated primarily by the service support that goes with them, or not.

In my case, I think the service experience with ICT FILTRACIÓN is what makes the difference.

Contact is easy and fast and also ongoing: throughout my relationship with ICT FILTRACIÓN I have dealt with three people and their team and they have always followed a clear pattern of attention and service. For ESTEVE QUÍMICA, apart from the right price and quality, service is decisive.

“At ICT FILTRACIÓN product and service are two sides of the same coin: their integration is total”

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.



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

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