



For further information:

Fluiten Italia S.p.A.
Cristina Mariano
+39-02-33940344
cristina.mariano@fluiten.it

Ufficio Stampa Fluiten - AIDnetwork
Marco Pignagnoli
+39-02-92887757
marco.pignagnoli@aidnetwork.com

ENI has awarded Fluiten an important work order

Fluiten has been awarded a contract to retrofit several mechanical seals at ENI's Sannazzaro plant. It beat off competition from five foreign multinationals.

Milano, November 12th 2009 – The ENI group preferred Fluiten Italia S.p.A. over large multinational companies for the supply of several sealing units for its refinery at Sannazzaro de' Burgundi (Pavia). Fluiten is an entirely Italian company with headquarters in Pero (Milan) that has worked in the rotating shaft seal sector for over forty years. The world-level oil and energy giant ENI made its choice after an invitation to tender in which six companies took part. Fluiten was the only Italian supplier in the running.

Fluiten will install the equipment, worth some hundreds of thousands of euros, at the Sannazzaro plant in the next few months. The order entails manufacturing and installing seals on the topping system pumps, which is the basic system where preliminary distillation starts.

These pumps run in heavy duty working conditions. The temperature of the pumped fluid is kept at over 380°C, the working pressure may reach 60 bars in some cases, and the shaft rotational speed reaches 16 m/s. The sealing system must also prevent the pumped fluid from cracking, which would be disastrous for good operation over time.

Besides the sealing systems, designed in compliance with world reference standard API 682, Fluiten will also deal with the design and manufacture of seal flushing systems. These systems will be used to control emissions into the atmosphere, thus preventing environmental pollution and obviously protecting the safety of workers. Special inspections were performed by Fluiten specialists together with ENI technicians at the Sannazzaro plant to identify the best place to locate the new flushing systems, since there had been no such system before. Inspections will also be carried out for the critical assembly and start-up operations.

Fluiten's work at the Sannazzaro plant not only aims to improve safety, but also machine efficiency by increasing the MTBR (meantime between repair). For ENI, this means more reliable machines and lower costs.

ENI's decision to assign the work to Fluiten was the result of several decisive factors. Besides the technical quality of the project, Fluiten was able to guarantee better delivery times than the competition. It was also able to show it had full control over all production stages,

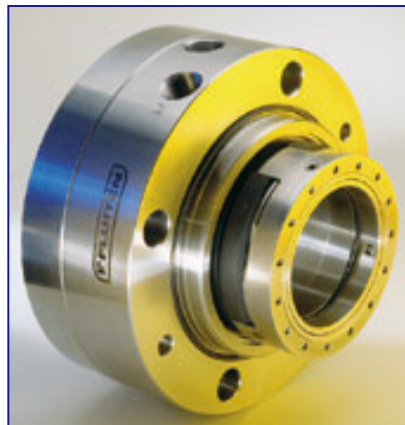
including design, technical drawings, assembly of the various components that make up the finished product, and testing.

The fact Fluiten was able to test the seals dynamically on its test beds before installing them in the refinery also contributed towards guiding ENI's choice. The Pero-based manufacturer is one of the few companies in the world to have developed dynamic tests in compliance with the requirements laid down in standard API 682, and it is the only company in Italy able to test seals on a bed that simulates actual working conditions.

Preference was given to innovative solutions that did not alter the original machine construction, and this was a determining factor when the tenders were assessed. Since the seals developed by Fluiten could be fitted on the systems at the Sannazzaro plant without needing to alter the machines, ENI was able to avoid modifying the original design of important equipment.



Fluiten flushing system developed according to standard API682



An API682 standard-compliant



Fluiten seal Fluiten test bed

Fluiten Italia S.p.A.

Fluiten is the leader in the design and manufacture of seals for rotating shafts. The entirely Italian company was founded in 1962 and is located at Pero (Milan). It employs over 100 people in its various European offices (France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany and Spain) and in Malaysia. Fluiten designs and manufactures mechanical seals in Pero, just outside Milan, which are mainly used in the chemical, petroleum and energy industries. Other important areas where Fluiten seals are used are the pharmaceutical, food, paper and marine sectors.