

# NITRIC ACID TECHNOLOGY

Maximum energy recovery  
with mono or dual pressure

**NX STAMI NITRATES** | **LAUNCH™**

# WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES

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for nitric acid plants?

When setting up a nitric acid plant, your aim is to **maximize energy recovery while minimizing your cost of investment**. That makes the single-train design process a real challenge.

We have what it takes to deliver **the nitric acid plant that covers all your needs**. Because we draw on experience going back many decades and always use components that have proven their reliability in industrial settings.

Since the 1930s we have licensed a range of **safe, reliable and sustainable nitrate technologies** and built over 40 nitric acid plants worldwide. Depending on your preferences, we offer best-in-class, **mono and dual pressure nitric acid technologies**.

See the difference we make for you.

We have what it takes to deliver the nitric acid plant that covers all your needs.



# SMART PROCESS DESIGN

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with mono or dual pressure technology

Our mono and dual pressure plant designs are ideal for large-scale nitric acid production, as found in the fertilizer industry. They are well suited to a mono pressure plant capacity of up to 600MTPD, increasing to 2000MTPD for dual pressure plants.

Both these processes are characterized by **maximum energy recovery, reliable operation and minimal greenhouse gas emissions at high tail gas temperatures** of up to 480°C.

And the condensation/re-evaporation effect that causes corrosion is minimized by the smart heat exchanger layout. Our proven nitric acid technology works in conjunction with the most commonly used building materials, **driving down heat exchanger manufacturing costs substantially.**

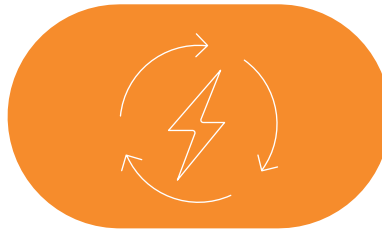
Drive down  
manufacturing  
costs



## Sustainable benefits



High tail gas temperature boosts N<sub>2</sub>O decomposition without adding external agents like natural gas.

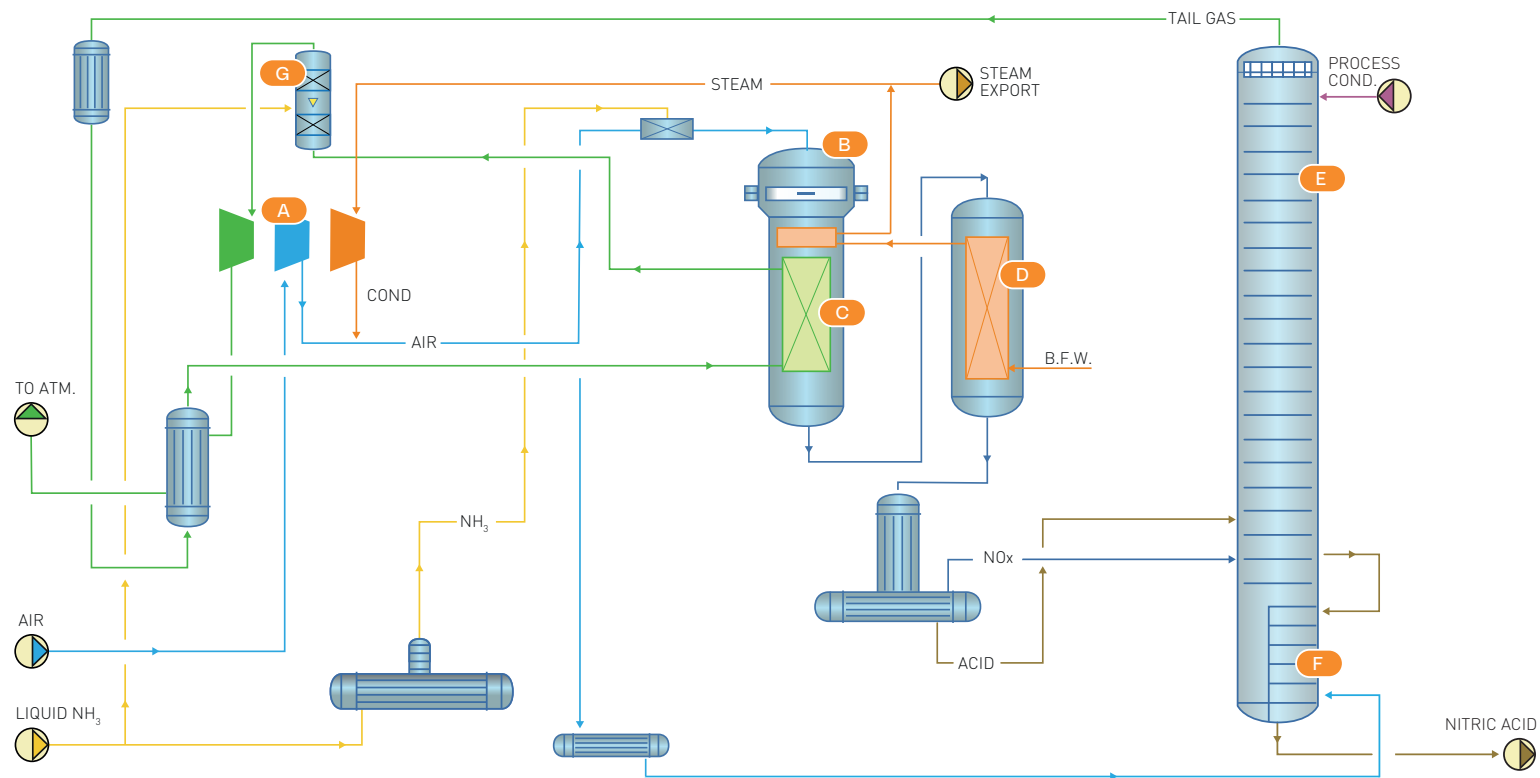


Extra power generation in the expansion turbine and additional heat recovery minimize energy loss through tail gas emissions.



Corrosion prevention by design promotes process safety and reliability.

# MONO PRESSURE TECHNOLOGY FOR THE NITRIC ACID PRODUCTION PROCESS



- |                           |                            |                                                             |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>A</b> Compressor train | <b>D</b> Waste heat boiler | <b>G</b> N <sub>2</sub> O/NO <sub>x</sub> abatement reactor |
| <b>B</b> Burner           | <b>E</b> Absorption column |                                                             |
| <b>C</b> Tail gas heater  | <b>F</b> Bleaching column  |                                                             |

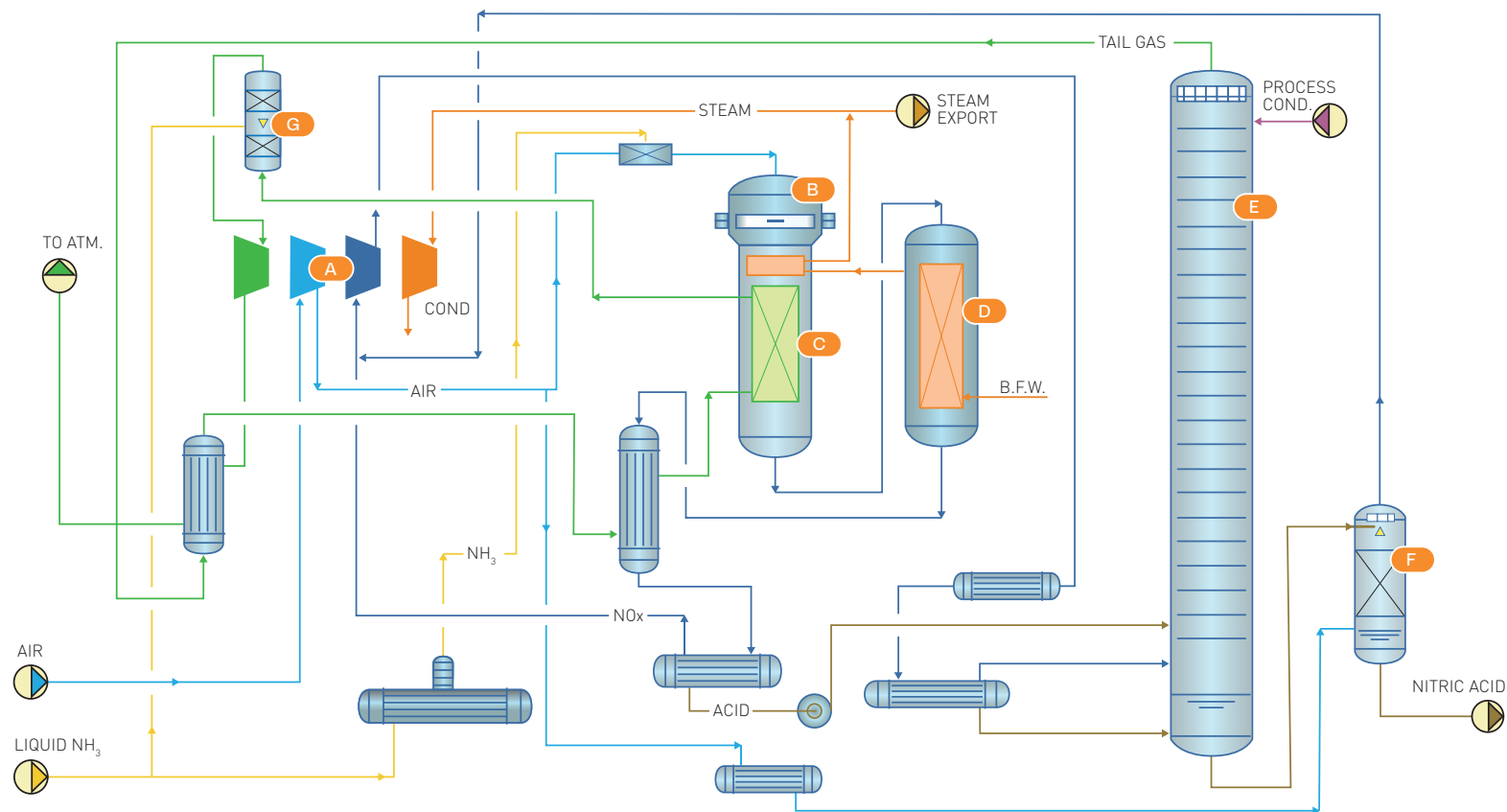
## MONO PRESSURE TECHNOLOGY MAIN FEATURES

- The process operating pressure is 8 bar (a).
- A mixture of compressed air and  $\text{NH}_3$  is fed into the ammonia burner, where  $\text{NH}_3$  is oxidized to NO on Pt/Rh gauzes. Small amounts of  $\text{N}_2$  and  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  are formed as side products. Optimum gauze temperature is ensured.
- The NO is oxidized to  $\text{NO}_2$  in the gas phase downstream, leading to the formation of  $\text{HNO}_3$ . The heat released by the oxidation reaction is used to generate high-pressure steam and heat the tail gas.
- Downstream of the waste heat boiler, the nitrous gas is cooled down further in a boiler feed water preheater. This is then fed into the cooler condenser, where a weak acid solution is condensed and transmitted to the oxidation/absorption column. The remaining gas enters the bottom of the oxidation/absorption column, which consists of a series of sieve trays.
- The acid from the sieve trays is fed into the bleaching trays, which are situated at the bottom of the absorption column. Here, the acid undergoes air stripping to remove traces of NOx, leaving a colorless nitric acid solution of approx. 58-63 wt%.
- Traces of NOx and  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  remain in the overhead vapor from the absorption/oxidation column. To get this down to an acceptable level, this tail gas is heated to approx. 480°C and fed through a tertiary abatement system. Here,  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  and NOx are converted into water and nitrogen by means of two catalyst beds.
- In the expansion turbine, the tail gas is expanded. The in-line compressor train configuration enables the energy this releases to drive the air compressor. Additional power is generated by a steam turbine or electromotor.
- After expansion, the tail gas stream is still hot enough for another heat exchanging step, which lowers the temperature of the tail gas released to the atmosphere.

### Consumption

|                                |                             |          |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|
| Operating range                | %                           | 70 - 110 |
| $\text{NH}_3$ consumption      | kg/ton 100% $\text{HNO}_3$  | 284      |
| Pt losses (incl. recovery)     | g/ton 100% $\text{HNO}_3$   | 0.035    |
| HP steam export, 45 bar, 450°C | kg/ton 100% $\text{HNO}_3$  | > 600    |
| NOx                            | ppm vol                     | < 20     |
| $\text{N}_2\text{O}$           | ppm vol                     | < 20     |
| Cooling water                  | ton/ton 100% $\text{HNO}_3$ | 110      |

## DUAL PRESSURE TECHNOLOGY FOR THE NITRIC ACID PRODUCTION PROCESS



- A Compressor train      D Waste heat boiler      G N<sub>2</sub>O/NO<sub>x</sub> abatement reactor
- B Burner      E Absorption column
- C Tail gas heater      F Bleaching column



## DUAL PRESSURE TECHNOLOGY MAIN FEATURES

- Air is filtered and compressed to approx. 5 bar (a) and mixed with evaporated ammonia.
- The ammonia/air mixture is fed into the ammonia burner.  $\text{NH}_3$  is oxidized to NO on Pt/Rh gauzes and small amounts of  $\text{N}_2$  and  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  are formed as side products.
- The NO is oxidized to  $\text{NO}_2$  in the gas phase downstream, leading to the formation of  $\text{HNO}_3$ . The heat released by the oxidation reaction is used to generate high-pressure steam and heat the tail gas.
- Downstream of the waste heat boiler, the nitrous gas is cooled down further to below its dew point. This is then fed into the low-pressure cooler condenser, where a weak acid solution is condensed and transmitted to the oxidation/absorption column. The remaining nitrous gas is compressed to 11 bar (a) by the NOx compressor and re-cooled to below its dew point to form a more concentrated acid solution in the high-pressure cooler condenser.
- The remaining gas enters the bottom of the oxidation/absorption column, which consists of a series of sieve trays.
- The acid exits the bottom of the absorption column and is fed into the bleacher where last traces of dissolved NOx are eliminated by air stripping, producing a colorless nitric acid solution of approx. 58-63 wt%.
- Traces of NOx and  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  remain in the overhead vapor from the absorption/oxidation column. To get this down to an acceptable level, this tail gas is heated to approx. 480°C and fed through a tertiary abatement system. Here,  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  and NOx are converted into water and nitrogen by means of two catalyst beds.
- In the expansion turbine, the tail gas is expanded. The in-line compressor train configuration enables the energy this releases to drive the air and NOx compressors. Additional power is generated by a steam turbine.

### Consumption

|                                |                             |          |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|
| Operating range                | %                           | 70 - 110 |
| $\text{NH}_3$ consumption      | kg/ton 100% $\text{HNO}_3$  | 282      |
| Pt losses (incl. recovery)     | g/ton 100% $\text{HNO}_3$   | 0.03     |
| HP steam export, 45 bar, 450°C | kg/ton 100% $\text{HNO}_3$  | > 800    |
| NOx                            | ppm vol                     | < 20     |
| $\text{N}_2\text{O}$           | ppm vol                     | < 20     |
| Cooling water                  | ton/ton 100% $\text{HNO}_3$ | 100      |

# TERTIARY ABATEMENT SYSTEM

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## we care about the environment

The most efficient and straightforward way to remove NO<sub>x</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O from tail gas emissions is through Stamicarbon's abatement system. We collaborate with the most experienced and qualified catalyst suppliers to ensure optimal performance and to meet the most stringent regulations.

The abatement system is located downstream of the absorption column, where the tail gas temperature is

increased to 480°C. These conditions are ideal for efficient abatement while minimizing the required catalyst volume. The abatement of N<sub>2</sub>O and NO<sub>x</sub> occurs in the same vessel. Upon exiting the reactor, the cleaned off-gas is sent to the expander and then released into the atmosphere at approximately 45°C. Due to the milder process conditions, no special materials are needed for the expander.



## Did you know?

Stamicarbon offers this equipment as a full-service option (one-stop-shop). However, the choice of catalyst type and vendor is ultimately agreed with the client. Also, reloading can be directly managed by the client with no risk of additional charges.



## MAIN PECULIARITIES:

- Easy reactor installation
- High  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{NO}_x$  conversion
- Long catalyst lifetime
- Minimized delta P
- No need natural gas
- No  $\text{NH}_3$  slippage
- Optimal energy balance to achieve the desired tail gas temperature.
- Full life assistance

Stamicarbon is beside you every step of the way: from creating a new plant to optimizing and upgrading existing facilities in light of a sustainable and futureproof production.



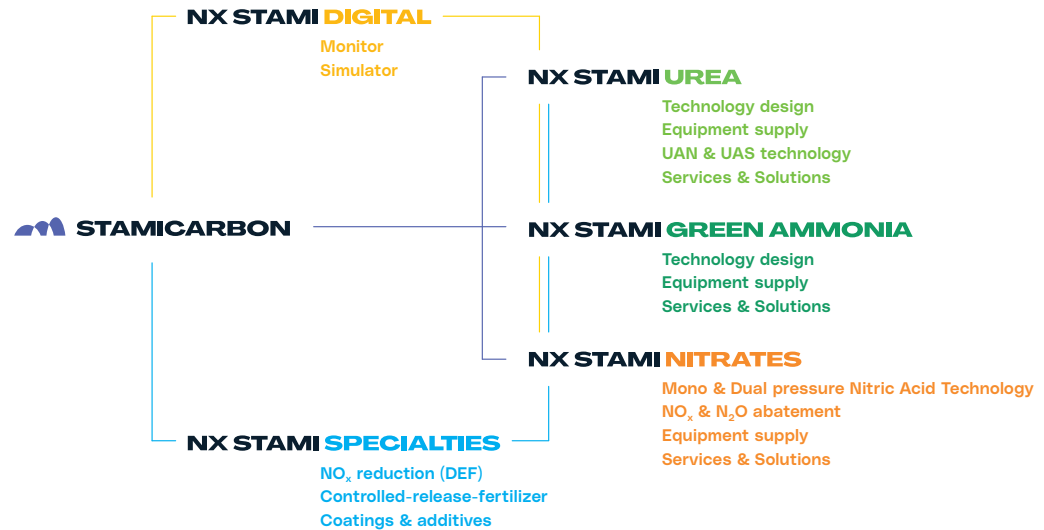
# CONCLUSION

Our solutions are built on 75 years of high-quality research and in-depth industry knowhow. We work closely with the entire value chain to improve and innovate our technologies. As the world's leading urea authority, we show our commitment to driving the long-term success of the industry by sharing our insights, solutions and knowledge.

## Get more insights

Brochures, papers and other information published over many decades are available at [www.stamicarbon.com](http://www.stamicarbon.com).

We also share our knowledge at various conferences to keep you up to speed on the latest developments in urea.



## Contact us

Interested in advancing your plant?  
We look forward to discussing your requirements and putting together a personalized proposal.

## References of Grass route nitric acid plants

| Total capacity (mt/d) | Customers                                             | Site            | Country     | Technology           | Contractor                       |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1400                  | DSM Agro Division                                     | Geleen          | Netherlands | Dual pressure design | Didier Engineering, Germany      |
| 670                   | UKF                                                   | IJmuiden        | Netherlands | Dual pressure design | Didier Engineering, Germany      |
| 1100                  | Akdeniz Gubre Sanayi                                  | Mersin          | Turkey      | Mono pressure design | Kellogg Continental, Netherlands |
| 652                   | Fertilizantes Mexicanos                               | Pajaritos       | Mexico      | Mono pressure design | Krebs, France                    |
| 600                   | UKF Fertilizers                                       | Ince            | UK          | Mono pressure design | Sim. Chem., UK                   |
| 570                   | Agrico Chemical Corporation                           | Oklahoma, Tulsa | USA         | Mono pressure design | Pullman Kellogg, USA             |
| 800                   | Sonatrach                                             | Annaba          | Algeria     | Mono pressure design | Krebs, France                    |
| 570                   | Agrico Chemical Corporation                           | Oklahoma, Tulsa | USA         | Mono pressure design | Kellogg Continental, Netherlands |
| 700                   | Duslo                                                 | Šaľa            | Slovakia    | Dual pressure design | Société Krebs & Cie, France      |
| 225                   | Monomeros Colombo-Venezolanos                         | Barranquilla    | Colombia    | Mono pressure design | McKee, USA                       |
| 255                   | Scottish Agricultural Industries                      | Edinburgh       | UK          | Mono pressure design | Humphreys & Glasgow, UK          |
| 675                   | Cuba Industrial                                       | Cienfuegos      | Cuba        | Mono pressure design | Simon Carves, UK                 |
| 820                   | Societe Rhodannienne d'Engrais                        | Chasse          | France      | Mono pressure design | Kuhlmann, France                 |
| 725                   | Masinimport                                           | Targu Mures     | Romania     | Mono pressure design | Didier-Werke, Germany            |
| 190                   | Haifa Chemicals                                       | Ashdod          | Israel      | Mono pressure design | Staff                            |
| 275                   | Kwinana Nitrogen                                      | Kwinana         | Australia   | Mono pressure design | Humphreys & Glasgow, UK          |
| 185                   | Associated Chemical Companies                         | Harrogate       | UK          | Mono pressure design | Humphreys & Glasgow, UK          |
| 420                   | DSM                                                   | Geleen          | Netherlands | Mono pressure design | DSM, Netherlands                 |
| 530                   | Imperial Chemicals Industries                         | Sevenside       | UK          | Mono pressure design | Humphreys & Glasgow, UK          |
| 810                   | Société Egyptienne d'Engrais et d'Industrie, Chimique | Suez            | Egypt       | Mono pressure design | Uhde, Germany                    |
| 330                   | Jwestling                                             | Nebraska        | USA         | Mono pressure design | KT- Kinetics Technology, Italy   |



| Total capacity (mt/d) | Customers                                             | Site             | Country      | Technology           | Contractor                           |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2700                  | Pulway Azot                                           | Puławy           | Poland       | Mono pressure design | Didier-Werke, Germany                |
| 530                   | Imperial Chemical Industries                          | Severnside       | UK           | Mono pressure design | Humphreys & Glasgow, UK              |
| 295                   | Al Nasar Co.                                          | Helwan           | Egypt        | Mono pressure design | Continental Engineering, Netherlands |
| 255                   | SASOL                                                 | Sasolburg        | South Africa | Mono pressure design | Simon Carves, UK                     |
| 125                   | Sefanitro                                             | Bilbao           | Spain        | Mono pressure design | Uhde, Germany                        |
| 425                   | Columbia Nitrogen Corp.                               | Georgia, Augusta | USA          | Mono pressure design | Braun, USA                           |
| 160                   | Imperial Chemical Industries                          | Severnside       | UK           | Mono pressure design | ICI                                  |
| 160                   | Imperial Chemical Industries                          | Heysham          | UK           | Mono pressure design | ICI                                  |
| 260                   | Ruhrchemie                                            | Oberhausen       | Germany      | Mono pressure design | Uhde, Germany                        |
| 195                   | Kemira Oy                                             | Oulu             | Finland      | Mono pressure design | Tippi Oy                             |
| 320                   | Farbwerke 'Hoechst' (extension)                       | Höchst           | Germany      | Mono pressure design | Uhde, Germany                        |
| 810                   | Fertilizer Corporation of India                       | Rourkela         | India        | Mono pressure design | Fertilizer Corporation of India      |
| 345                   | Hibernia                                              | Wanne-Eickel     | Germany      | Mono pressure design | Uhde, Germany                        |
| 225                   | Ministry of Coordination                              | Athens           | Greece       | Mono pressure design | Uhde, Germany                        |
| 205                   | Nitratos de Portugal                                  | Lisbon           | Portugal     | Mono pressure design | Werkspoor, Netherlands               |
| 200                   | KIMA (extension)                                      | Assuan           | Egypt        | Mono pressure design | Uhde, Germany                        |
| 150                   | Société Egyptienne d'Engrais et d'Industrie, Chimique | Cairo            | Egypt        | Mono pressure design | Uhde, Germany                        |
| 320                   | Farbwerke 'Hoechst'                                   | Höchst           | Germany      | Mono pressure design | Uhde, Germany                        |
| 160                   | Imperial Chemical Industries                          | Ardeer           | UK           | Mono pressure design | ICI                                  |
| 90                    | African Explosives & Chemical Industries              | Modderfontein    | South Africa | Mono pressure design | Werkspoor, Netherlands               |
| 610                   | KIMA                                                  | Assuan           | Egypt        | Mono pressure design | Uhde, Germany                        |
| 790                   | DSM                                                   | Geleen           | Netherlands  | Mono pressure design | DSM, Netherlands                     |

# WE ARE STAMICARBON

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Stamicarbon is the innovation and license company of the Maire Group. We are a trailblazing specialist in the fertilizer industry, with the vision needed to help feed the world and improve everyone's quality of life.

Our leading position is based on more than 75 years' licensing experience and maintained by continuous innovation in terms of technologies, products and materials. Headquartered in Sittard, the Netherlands, Stamicarbon has a sales office in the USA and representative offices in Russia and China. For more information, see [www.stamicarbon.com](http://www.stamicarbon.com).

# WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU?

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Questions about our nitric acid technology? Like to know how our expertise, knowledge and experience creating, optimizing and upgrading nitric plants can help you make the switch to sustainable, futureproof production? We are here for you. Contact our experts at [www.stamicarbon.com](http://www.stamicarbon.com).



## Stamicarbon

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