

David Moller



Experienced Chemical Engineer with more than 30 years international sugar production experience. Focused on achieving immediate, profitable solutions for sugar businesses through advice, training and optimised sugar equipment designs.

Qualifications

Chartered Chemical Engineer
iChemE 2018

Masters of Business Administration
Deakin University, Australia 1995

Australian High Risk Work Certification 2001
Turbine operator
Basic Boiler operator
Advanced Boiler operator

Bachelor of Engineering – Chemical
University of Queensland, Australia 1992

Experience

Experienced Sugar Consulting 2023 – Present
Principal

Providing strategies, guidance and training to international clients to improve their overall sugar factory performance and efficiency. A current key project is assisting a client with experience transfer at a new Indonesian sugar milling business, through face-to-face training and on-line advice. This includes the automation of process, such as crystallisation, that is currently manual and the upgrade to current world's best practice for evaporator clean-in-place descaling.

Queensland University of Technology in conjunction with Sugar Research Institute Australia 2013 - 2023

Senior Research Engineer

Leading sugar technology trainer providing factory-specific sugar technology courses throughout Australia and the Asia-Pacific region. Developed and delivered diverse training programs covering aspects of raw sugar production for operators, supervisors and engineers, after identifying gaps in industry experience. Reduced downtime and improved decision making leading to increased factory yields have been directly attributable to this training.

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Site-specific training courses were developed in areas such as:

Boiler operations, Extraction, Clarification, Raw sugar crystallisation, Product crystallisation, Separation and drying. These courses have demonstrated benefits in improved staff morale through, and increased understanding of, the sugar processes.

Activities undertaken during site visits included:

- Crystallisation pan commissioning (Batch and Continuous)
- Sensor calibration and process automation of crystallisation processes (raw and refined sugar)
- Raw and refined process audits and optimisation
- On site training
- Fabrication inspections
- Factory commissioning
- Boiler tuning

Countries in which these activities have been undertaken include:

Australia, Kenya, India, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, China, Philippines, Indonesia, , Fiji, Guatemala, Colombia, Argentina, Brazil.

Additional experience secured in the textile recycling industry. Contributed to the global recycling processes through scaling up a textile recovery process to the PFD and P&ID stage for a new textile recovery plant built in Brisbane to separate and recover cotton and polyester from used clothing and linen.

New South Wales Sugar Milling Co-Operative 1994 – 2013

Production manager – Broadwater site 2005 - 2013

Responsible for all non-maintenance actions on site, the integration of a new 30MW boiler and condensing/pass out turbo-alternator into a 100+ year-old factory. This resulted in revenue significantly increasing with the year-round co-generation supply to the state grid while maintaining the high raw sugar quality and factory efficiency. This was completed while reducing the steam % cane from 55% to 37% through modifications to the evaporators and heater configuration only.

Assistant production manager – Broadwater site 1999 - 2005

Training factory operators was a key focus to ensure that the operators were able to make correct decisions unassisted, critical in a factory with only 7 factory operators and no shift trades with tight tolerances on high pol sugar production.

A new integrated database for cane payment and factory control was developed for the business. This system was spread over three sites with more than 4000 suppliers, with the cane payment based on the suppliers contracted mill even during cane transfers between sites. This included integration with the existing general ledger with the associated reporting, transactional audits, and invoicing processes.

Single shift supervisor – Harwood site 1994- 1999

First supervisor on this site concurrently focussed on delivering factory efficiency for both the sugar mill and the white sugar refinery. While mentoring and developing the operators, care was taken to ensure the quality of the 20 ICU high grade white sugar.

Breakdown assessment and co-ordination was critical to maintain low levels of downtime with no shift tradespeople.

Capital and maintenance planning and supervision with the maintenance trades was undertaken prior and during shutdown periods.

References

Professor Ross Broadfoot

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