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Ricoltex & LAIP Advance Sustainable Textile Dyeing

Ricoltex, a leading textile company based in Argentina, is part of the Ritex Group, known for its commitment to innovation, sustainability, and high-quality textile production. In the context of rising energy costs and growing environmental regulations, Ricoltex embarked on a project to improve its energy efficiency and reduce environmental impact through the installation of thermal recovery systems. One solution came in the form of heat exchangers developed by LAIP, an Italian company specializing in technologies on textile dyeing. This interview explores the objectives, outcomes, and strategic advantages of this collaboration.

What needs do the heat exchangers address, and what type of application do they have at Ricoltex?

The primary objective behind installing the WeXY heat exchangers was to reduce the temperature of the textile effluent, which is essential for its subsequent treatment in our future Biologic Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP). In addition, the technology allows us to recover thermal energy from the...

... effluent, which is then used to preheat the clean water entering the production process. This dual functionality not only enhances the system's energy efficiency but also helps us comply with local discharge regulations. By integrating this technology, we are able to meet both environmental and operational objectives simultaneously.

How important is sustainability to Ricoltex?

Sustainability is a core strategic pillar for the Ritex Group, and it guides both our daily operations and our long-term vision. This approach is not just about complying with existing regulations; it reflects our commitment to responsible business practices and aligns with international standards and the increasing demands of the global market. Implementing clean technologies, such as heat exchangers, optimizing water use, and utilizing systems for process tracking and control, are clear examples of our sustainability policy in action.





How sensitive are Ricoltex customers to sustainability issues?

Our customers are increasingly sensitive to sustainability issues. In this context, Ricoltex's sustainable approach not only responds to market demand but also provides us with a competitive edge and strengthens customer loyalty. As markets become more conscious of environmental and ethical practices, having a strong sustainability profile is increasingly becoming a key factor in building lasting business relationships.

What advantages has Ricoltex gained in terms of energy efficiency improvement, reduction of emissions and industrial sustainability?

The implementation of the thermal recovery system has resulted in tangible improvements across several key performance areas. The most notable achievement has been a sustained improvement in energy efficiency, with a reduction in natural gas consumption per kilogram of dyed fabric. Between August and November 2025, the specific gas consumption dropped by 6.3% compared to the baseline period of February–July 2025. In November, despite lower production, the specific consumption further decreased to 0.353 m³/kg, reaching the optimal performance observed earlier in the year. The thermal recovery system has also contributed to a reduction of over 180 tons of CO₂ emissions.

Ricoltex enhances sustainability by improving energy use and water management in operations, reducing its environmental footprint and emissions. This positions the company as a responsible player in the global textile market, aligning with trends towards greener production practices.

Why did Ricoltex choose LAIP over other suppliers?

We sought a solution to reduce response times, enhance production efficiency, and ensure reliable quality. LAIP met these needs by optimizing energy recovery and improving plant performance. Their technical support was vital in achieving our goals, with a notable balance of cost and performance ensuring long-term sustainability. LAIP also provided effective post-sale support, addressing technical issues quickly and maintaining operational continuity with exceptional response. The success of the project relied not only on technical aspects but also on the human relationship built during negotiations. Key factors included professionalism, transparency, and attention to detail. LAIP distinguished themselves by customizing solutions to meet specific needs and adapting to existing equipment. Additionally, the established trust with LAIP's local agent enhanced communication, streamlining both commercial and technical management.

Can you provide a performance evaluation based on the results achieved so far?

The thermal recovery system has met, and in some cases exceeded, our expectations. Between August and November 2025 the specific gas consumption has decreased by 6.0% on average compared to the baseline period of February–July 2025, with a total savings of 91,334 m³ of natural gas, translating to a cost savings of approximately USD 18,000. Additionally, the system's consistent performance, particularly the recovery of optimal efficiency levels in November, has confirmed the system's reliability and effectiveness.

What are your future recommendations and next steps for this project?

We will monitor the gas consumption index daily to identify operational changes and analyze natural gas and steam usage for overall thermal efficiency. A quarterly dashboard will consolidate consumption, savings, and energy KPIs, offering senior management clear insights into energy performance.

The partnership between Ricoltex and LAIP stands as a prime example of how innovative technologies, like the WeXY heat exchangers, can drive energy efficiency, reduce environmental impact, and align operational goals with global sustainability standards. By leveraging these technologies, Ricoltex is not only improving its bottom line but also contributing to the ongoing evolution of the textile industry towards more sustainable practices.