Ekokem, Waste Power Plant, Riihimäki, Finland

FULLY AUTOMATED CRANE SOLUTION FOR WASTE-DERIVED ENERGY PRODUCTION
The Challenge
The Ekokem Group is the leading Finnish total service provider in the field of waste management. Located in Riihimäki, southern Finland, Ekokem is Finland’s first company specialized in hazardous waste, forming the company’s core business. Over the years, Ekokem has expanded into other areas such as waste recovery, energy production and remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater.

One of Ekokem’s central strategies in the near future is to increase its production of waste-derived heat and electricity. The latest waste power plant completed 18 months ago is one of Europe’s cleanest and safest thermal recovery plants for source-separated municipal waste. Planning is underway for a sister plant to be constructed next to the current one. After its completion, district heating can be produced for two mid-sized Finnish towns and the volume of electricity will increase significantly. Automated and reliable solutions are needed to ensure undisturbed heat and energy production.

The Solution
The Konecranes hydraulic grab unloader is the answer to Ekokem’s needs. It is fully automated and keeps the waste treatment and incineration process as efficient as possible. The system also operates during the nights and weekends on its own. On the other hand, the crane can be operated manually, should the waste mass include highly miscellaneous materials. In addition to efficiency, the electronic anti-sway system makes for accurate handling.

The Crane Management System (CMS), equipped with a computer, maintains information about crane operations in visual format, therefore offering valuable material for crane management and further development. Both the electronic anti-sway system and the fact that the crane stops if anyone enters the area guarantee increased safety.

The Results
- Intelligent automation has revolutionized waste treatment and incineration technology, says Petri Onikki, Technical Director.

Based on such solutions, Ekokem is able to further continue advanced environmental service development recognized internationally. The Konecranes technology is the best available and the solutions top-of-the-line. This proves the 24-year long continued partnership between Ekokem and Konecranes.

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