

## Installation of Process Piping Equipment

When the need for new processing equipment arises there are several concerns that face the project team of the manufacturing facility. Without a doubt, a major concern is the selection of a vendor for the design, fabrication and installation of the tanks, reactor vessels and process piping. However, in addition, the demolition of the existing equipment, the preparation of the site and the selection of general contractors such as electricians and masons, must be carefully considered. The apparent multiplicity of RFQs, time consuming reviews and final selections can be avoided by taking advantage of the “total approach to the job” offered by A&B Process Systems. In addition to the design, fabrication and installation of stainless steel processing equipment, for which the company enjoys an excellent reputation, A&B can provide a skilled management team to coordinate demolition tasks (using their own personnel if necessary) and contractors’ schedules, as well as completing the usual cost estimates, labor and materials reports and detailed process line, area and room reports.

The design and fabrication of the processing equipment is usually completed at the vendor’s facilities. However, the size of the tanks and reactor vessels and accessibility to the site may make it necessary to recommend field erected fabrication. Here the equipment may be partially fabricated at the vendor’s facilities or it may be fully assembled and then disassembled for transportation and installation at the customer’s site. High quality workmanship and timely completion in field erected fabrication demands the experienced project engineers, together with the skilled welders and fitters that A&B are capable of providing. Furthermore, the field units from A&B Process Systems are self-sufficient, minimizing the disturbance to existing plant operations.

The tanks and vessels in a system are connected by process piping, a term that refers to the piping conveying fluids under pressure or vacuum. It is a complex arrangement of pipes, valves, support clamps, other related components and control instrumentation. There are many factors involved in the design of a piping system, requiring the level of experience that is found in A&B’s engineering staff. The fabrication and assembly of the process piping system must be carried out by qualified welders and fitters. The personnel at A&B Process Systems are trained in all of the required procedures for welding, bending and forming stainless steel piping.

It is evident that the installation of processing equipment at any manufacturing facility will be the culmination of a multi-phase project. Critical decisions must be made at each phase of the project and A&B Process Systems believes that successful installation requires a partnership between the customer and vendor, with clear and open lines of communication from the outset of the project. A&B has recognized the importance of “vendor partnering” and strive to make this their approach to all customers.