



Customer : Stichting Sanquin
Bloedvoorziening
Product group : Industrial Plastics
Market : Food and pharma

GROWTH DEMANDS NEW PLASTIC PLASMA PROCESSING COLUMNS

ERIKS supplies turnkey solutions with plastic columns, SS frames and plastic basins made to order



CUSTOMER PROFILE

Stichting Sanquin Bloedvoorziening is a Dutch non-profit organisation that handles the supply of blood and blood products in the Netherlands. Nationally, 400,000 donors give blood or plasma for this. Sanquin promotes transfusion medicine, supplies products and services, performs scientific research and provides education, training, refresher courses and continuing education.

CHALLENGE

The modern Plasma Products division is part of Sanquin Bloedvoorziening. It makes medicines from human blood plasma for the treatment of a range of diseases, including clotting agents, immunoglobulines and albumine, for the Dutch and international market.

Certain clotting agents are distilled from the plasma with what is known as a 3F column and a 4F column. A PEG filtration column is used for filtrations. To handle growing market demand and work more efficiently required bigger columns. They had to be scaled up from 1600 kilograms of plasma per batch to 2500. The PEG filtration column had to be expanded from 800 to 2500 kilograms. The plastic basins in which the columns could be cleaned were also to be modified. ERIKS was invited to study the issue.

SOLUTION

Capacity increase was realised through a linear scale-up of three plasma processing columns. Although the scaling-up was linear, it still posed engineering challenges. ERIKS dealt with all the calculations and designs. Due to the size and weights involved, strength calculations had to be

made. We are now one year into the project, in which many problems and issues had to be overcome and solved.

The design had a flaw that both parties had overlooked. The 3F and 4F columns are fixed with bolts and nuts. For the PEG filtration column we also had to put in big toggles, but then we found that we couldn't fill the columns anymore. They turned out to be totally different systems. Whatever the challenges, ERIKS always solved them in consultation with the customer.

OTHER BENEFITS

- Turnkey solution

FURTHER COMMENTS

ERIKS seamlessly supplied the right FDA and USP certificates and the functional acceptance test. ERIKS addressed our problem very well and provided advice and assistance where necessary. Everything was handled promptly.

Hans van Raalte,
Sanquin Process Specialist