



GEA Niro Spray Drying Absorption

Flue Gas Desulphurisation

Economic solutions for the iron & steel industry

SDA: economical, efficient, ecological

Balancing interests

Climate change – and in particular, air pollution – has never been higher on the global agenda. An inherently international issue, policed by multilateral agreements, legislation is constantly tightening.

For operators in the metallurgical industry this is nothing new – it has long made good political sense to curtail harmful emissions. What is new, however, is the expanding role environmental technologies can play in enhancing plant performance. With a considerable portion of e.g. a modern sinter plant's costs linked to emission control, the right technologies not only cushion environmental impact, but fertilise competitive advantages.

When it comes to flue gas desulphurisation (FGD), GEA Niro's spray drying absorption (SDA) process can give you an edge. By enhancing efficiency and limiting costs, SDA lets you comfortably balance regulatory and financial ambitions.

SDA in the iron & steel industry

First conceived by GEA Niro in the 1970s, SDA has been quickly adopted worldwide by various heavy industries because of its numerous demonstrable benefits. Originally developed for flue gas cleaning for power stations and waste incinerators, the tightening environmental requirements has mediated a successful adaptation of the SDA to also cater for the iron & steel industry.

SDA removes acid gases and particulates from flue gases – at rates well above legislative targets – and converts them into a light, free-flowing powder. However, it's in the sheer simplicity of SDA that its true merits lie. Using a minimum of equipment and raw materials, SDA requires far less capital expenditure upfront and lower running costs than many rival technologies (compared to wet scrubbers, SDA offers huge savings on energy, water consumption, and operating and maintenance costs). The process' uncomplicated basis makes it ideal for sinter plants and pelletizing plants as it is remarkably robust (the first SDA systems, installed in 1980, are still running today) and easy to operate. The system can handle a broad fuel range and simply adjusts itself to follow changes in gas load and composition.

All of this means you can meet your commitment to regulators without neglecting your obligation to shareholders. Dependable, economical, verifiable – SDA breathes fresh air into your processes, compliance, reputation and profits.



*Absorber penthouse
with absorbent supply
arrangement and spare
rotary atomizer.*

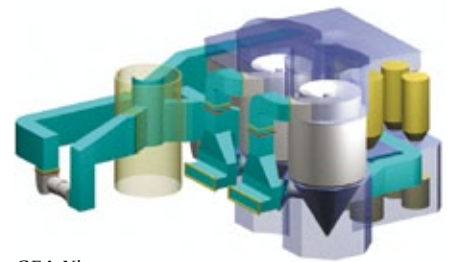
360 m² sinter band installation (left) with GEA Niro spray dryer absorber, bag filter and new stack (background)



Sinter band product - main feedstock for the blast furnace



Sinter band with ignition hood



GEA Niro can generate basic designs for new or retrofit SDA projects.

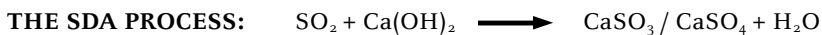
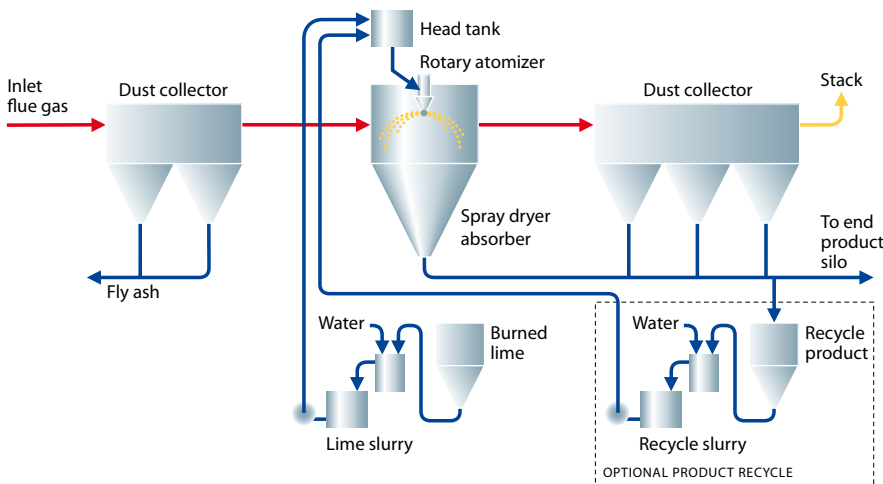


Key Benefits

- SO₂ removal efficiencies well above 98%
- Superior SO₃ capture rate
- Superior micro-pollutant capture rates
- Patented process for mercury removal
- Low capital expenditure
- Low water consumption
- Low auxiliary power consumption
- Low operating and maintenance costs
- High availability
- Highly flexible: easily adjusts to variations in gas load and composition
- No need to reheat flue gas
- Absorbers made of mild steel – no high alloy materials
- Can use low quality water, incl. waste water or sea water
- No lining required
- No waste water generated
- No sludge treatment equipment

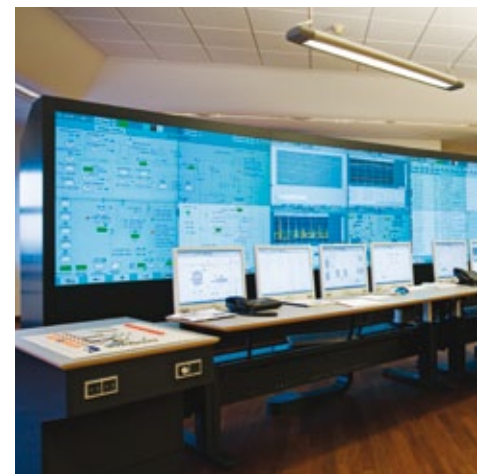
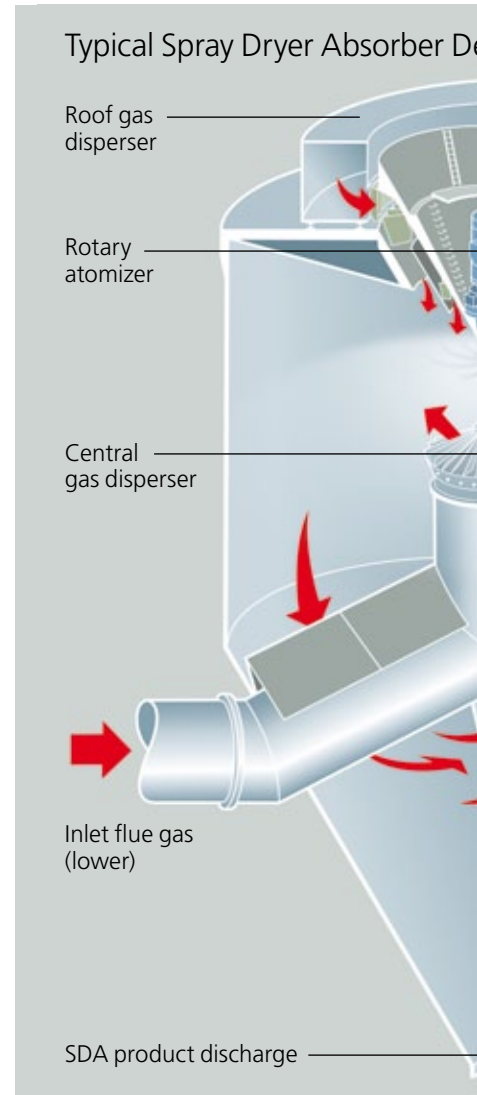
A simple, precise process

SDA is based on a simple concept, honed over the years into a precise, effective system. Hot, untreated flue gas is fed into a spray drying absorption chamber and comes immediately into contact with a fine spray of alkaline slurry (usually slaked lime). Virtually all acidic components in the flue gas are absorbed into the alkaline droplets, while water is evaporated simultaneously. Precise control of the gas distribution, slurry flow rate and droplet size ensures that all droplets are converted into a fine powder. Some fly ash and reaction products drop to the bottom of the absorber and are discharged. The treated flue gas continues on to a dust collector, where any remaining suspended solids are removed. The cleaned outlet gases are then expelled through the stack. Meanwhile the dry powder from the bottom of the absorber and dust collector is conveyed to a silo. The SDA process can optionally include a partial recycling of the reaction products to the feed slurry to improve absorption and drying performance.

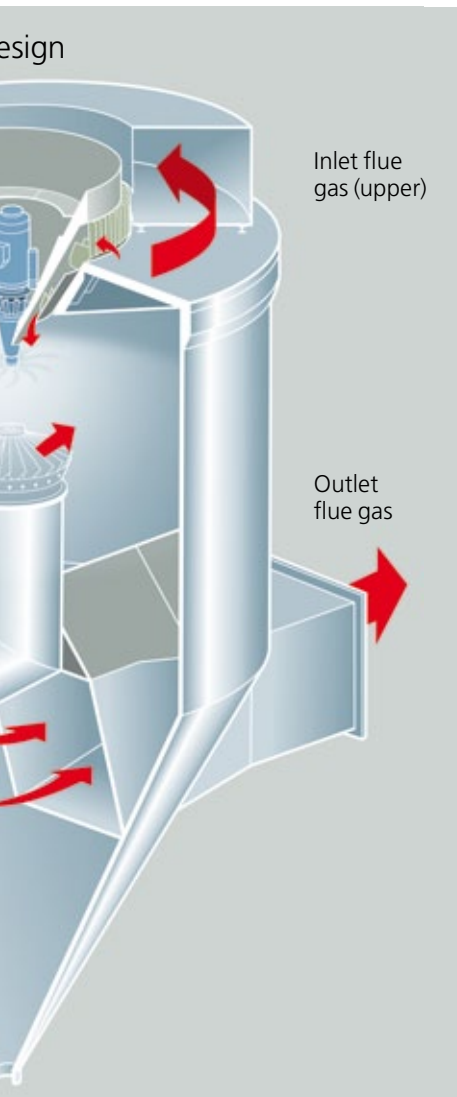


Effective and adaptable

GEA Niro's unique SDA process offers many advantages. SO₂ removal rates are freely adjustable up to 98% or more. In addition, micro-pollutants, such as SO₃, Hg, HCl and HF, are also effectively removed during the process. A highly tolerant system, SDA is self-adapting to changes in flue gas flow rate, temperature and composition. On a practical level, SDA is suitable for sinter plants of all sizes, requiring only a single absorber and a single rotary atomizer for cleaning of the flue gases from a 600 m² sinter band installation. And absorption chambers are made entirely of mild steel and often produced locally. Furthermore, the process can utilise low-grade water like wet scrubber effluent and other waste water streams, and generates no waste water.



A rotary atomizer disperses the absorbent slurry into billions of tiny droplets.



The rotary atomizer and spray dryer absorber
 Central to GEA Niro's SDA process is the concept of using a spray dryer as both an absorber and dryer simultaneously. Achieving this hinges on two crucial pieces of equipment – the GEA Niro rotary atomizer and gas disperser. The former atomises feed slurry into billions of droplets, while the latter ensures the correct gas dispersion to optimise drying and reaction conditions.

Years of development and refinement have resulted in a rotary atomizer that is extremely reliable, able to operate continuously for more than 4,000 hours and requires little maintenance. Other key advantages of the GEA Niro rotary atomizer and spray dryer absorber includes:

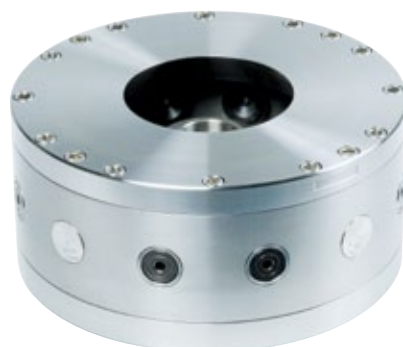
Rotary atomizer:

- High capacity – one rotary atomizer per 600 m² sinter band
- Low maintenance
- Patented wear-resistant design (WEARSERT™)
- High availability
- Durable – lifespan over 30 years
- Broad turn down range
- Proprietary feed distributor design (VOLUTE™)

Spray dryer absorber:

- One absorber for 600 m² sinter band
- Optional flat bottom design (patent pending)
- Wear resistant gas disperser design (patent pending)
- Broad turn down range

SDA plant operation is handled from the control room



The abrasion-resistant atomizer wheel and insert design ensures reliable continuous operation, with a minimum of maintenance.

A single rotary atomizer can treat the flue gas from a 600 m² sinter band installation.



GEA Niro patented rotary atomizer wheel insert.



The dry free-flowing product from the SDA process can easily be handled in a pneumatic transport system.



Flat bottom absorber in China.



A pioneer of SDA

In the mid-1970s, GEA Niro began testing the idea of using spray dryers to absorb acid compounds in combustion gases, with considerable success. By 1980 the process was patented and made commercially available; with both operational and economical advantages, it was eagerly adopted in Europe, North & South America and Asia. Today, the benefits are widely recognised and SDA is being used at numerous sinter plants and pelletizing plants worldwide.

Bringing expertise to bear

GEA Niro remains the world authority on SDA applications for flue gas cleaning, offering an unprecedented range of experience, process know-how and equipment. To date we have fitted over 500 rotary atomizers at more than 175 different SDA installations around the world. More importantly, we ensure this knowledge translates into tangible benefits for our customers. A familiarity with sinter plants of all sizes and legislative demands enables GEA Niro to quickly and professionally generate basic engineering designs for new SDA installations. And, whenever possible, we personally oversee the implementation and start-up phase of all projects to satisfy customers (and ourselves) that the process and equipment perform as expected.

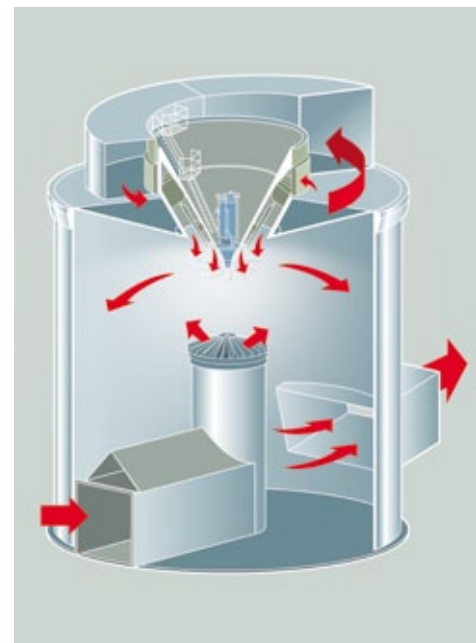
A lasting commitment

Investing in an SDA system is really just the first step in a relationship that we hope is as durable and enduring as our technology itself.

GEA Niro is a world leader in industrial drying applications and has operations in more than 50 countries. Our global After Sales Division is dedicated solely to serving customers with routine maintenance checks, original GEA Niro spare parts and emergency technical support. Of course, our SDA-specialist engineers are also at hand for more complex repairs or process inquiries. Finally, our After Sales Division can provide training on both operation and maintenance issues, helping customers help themselves.

With GEA Niro you can be confident that you are never far away from local support of a world-class standard. That's because when you invest in a GEA Niro SDA system, you also gain the commitment of 4,500 employees, devoted to keeping your business performing optimally at all times.

360 m² sinter band, China



Flat bottom absorber design for large size SDA applications (patent pending)



SDA including new stack, China

Most SDA units have a spare atomizer, which can be brought into service within 30 minutes.

GEA Niro SDA-specialists are at hand for process enquiries.



SDA module size 16,000 installed at 360 m² sinter band, China



Left: Erection of an SDA plant in Denmark.



Bottom of SDA with flue gas inlet and outlet duct and product discharge.

Above: Upper deck of fabric filter downstream of SDA.



Right: Sinter band discharge



Excellence

Passion

Integrity

Responsibility

GEA-versity

GEA Group is a global mechanical engineering company with multi-billion euro sales and operations in more than 50 countries. Founded in 1881, the company is one of the largest providers of innovative equipment and process technology. GEA Group is listed in the STOXX Europe 600 Index.



GEA Process Engineering

GEA Niro

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