



SFT Diploma Course Now in Two Blocks, Meeting the Feed Industry's Needs

Dear Sir or Madam

One of the main factors on the road to success for a company, are qualified and carefully trained employees. This applies to the field of feed manufacturing as much as it does to other industries. But opportunities must actually exist for a company's expert and management staff to undergo permanent training and continuing education. In this respect, we increasingly find that though employee training is a fundamental part of many companies' policies, participation in one of our Diploma Courses is often not possible due to employees' extended absence from their jobs. This has prompted us to review the concept that has been in place for over 20 years – a six-month Preparatory Correspondence Course followed by an eight-week Intensive On-site Course at the headquarters of the SFT.

Entrusted with maintaining or if possible even enhancing the high quality of today's demanding training program, the SFT Board recently decided to roll out the new **Concept 2012**, which splits the Diploma Course into two blocks. This decision was not made "out of the blue", but resulted from extensive investigations and surveys, the last of which was conducted at this year's VICTAM trade show in Cologne. Also this last survey showed positive responses to our plans and thus confirmed the SFT Board's decision, with some 80 percent of all the persons surveyed preferring **Concept 2012** to the set-up that has been in place up to now.

Structure of Concept 2012 (see also *Course Overviews and Course Descriptions*):

A high priority was given to carefully balancing the two course blocks and making sure they are highly attractive. For example, in both blocks animal nutrition and feed science plus electrical engineering and automation will be added to the subjects of flow sheet design and process technology. Moreover, guest lecturers will be involved to discuss pressing topics and thus contribute to the variety of subjects treated.

Also the Preparatory Course will be divided into two blocks. Within three months each (*Block 1, January – April / Block 2, June – September*), the students will deal with the subject matter that will be treated in each subsequent four-week Intensive Course (*Block 1, April/May, time between Easter and Whitsun / Block 2, first Monday in October plus four weeks*). With regard to flow sheet design and process technology, Block 1 will deal especially with the upstream processes (*intake/reception, size reduction, blending & mixing, etc.*) and Block 2 with the downstream processes of feed production (*liquids, hygienizing, compaction, etc.*).

Also the new concept makes provision for tracking the progress of learning on the basis of written tests. What will be new is that each Intensive Course block will be completed as an entire unit at the end of the four weeks by a final examination. However, students will not receive their diplomas qualifying them as Feed Production Engineer before successfully completing both Intensive Course blocks.

Benefits of Concept 2012 as compared with today's set-up:

We believe that the main advantage of this change – and its principal reason – is the shorter absence of students from their jobs, without however compromising the high quality of the course program. Furthermore, students will be granted a brief break after four weeks of exhaustive training. On the one hand, this will allow them to digest what they have learned and on the other hand to put it to practice at least partly in their own plants during the second Preparatory Course block. Therefore, a number of lessons will be provided in the second Intensive Course block enabling the successful students of the first block to discuss in a kind of case study within their classes the knowledge and experiences they have gained.

Summary:

As we all know today: "Change is the only constant thing in life". Heeding this wisdom, we firmly believe that – after the reorientation in 2008 – we have now adjusted our structures yet again by taking these new measures in order to continue to meet the feed industry's needs. We are pleased to continue to accompany our diploma course students through an instructive and extensive training program that enables them to understand state-of-the-art process technologies and to apply them with benefit in the field. We trust that we have thus not only acted for your benefit, but also to have aroused your interest. You will find all the information you require to register for the Diploma Course in the attachments or on our website www.sft-uzwil.ch

Of course, we will continue to offer our traditional Short Courses in the coming year in addition to the Diploma Course. We will publish these final dates during the month of September 2011.

Sincerely,

SWISS INSTITUTE OF FEED TECHNOLOGY

Luis Hernandez
President SFT



Ernst Nef
Director SFT