Meeting minutes at Meam Houthalen

Start: 2025-06-24 11:00:47

End: 2025-06-24 12:01:58

Subject: Kick-off Cosucra1 project

Present: Frédéric, Vincent, Renaat, Thomas, Cuong, Jeamichel, Johan

Minutes by: Johan

1. Opening

Frédéric opens the meeting and outlines the agenda for the Cosucra1 project.

2. Process and Product Context

Thomas presents tests on two chicory types:

- Residual pulp

- Sliced chicory roots for animal feed.

3. Scoping and Engineering Findings

1. Communication was intensive during scoping.

2. Main findings:

   a. Current belt system is inadequate for pre-drying.

   b. Management prefers electrification, but grid capacity is limited.

   c. Cuong's team optimized energy requirements.

   d. Existing CHP: 1 MW electric, 1.2 MW hot water.

   e. Target production: 3 t/h via a 3-level machine.

   f. Pre-engineering aims: 1 t/h dry by 2027, expandable to 3 lines by 2030.

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4. Concept Design

Discussed system concepts:

- Meam Dry 224

- Meam B Dry 224×5

Pretreatment heating from CHP, with optional heat pump later.

5. Client Operations and Constraints

Client runs 120 days/year continuously; staff remains on-site otherwise, increasing maintenance demands on B machines.

6. Planning and Execution

1. Goal: one operational line by August 2027.

2. Critical path:

  - Kametal: system module fabrication

  - Eleantis: cabling and module delivery

  - Microwave component installation/testing

  - Module stacking at Kametal Genk or Cosucra

  - Machine height ~12 m (alternative lower option under review)

3. Project execution start: October 2025.

7. Commercial Framework

• Client P.O. pending (Carlo following up).

• Pre-engineering cost: €310 000; proposal: 10% prepayment, balance in installments through July.

8. Process Testing and Development

Additional in-house tests to resolve product sticking; optimize belt distribution based on Thomas's trials.

9. Strategic Importance

Project recognized as a major milestone for MEAM; Frédéric appointed Project Leader.

10. Reporting & Communication

• Log meeting minutes and project hours in Odoo.

• Meetings held as needed per RASCI; escalate delays promptly.

11. Technical Considerations

Jeamichel raises power capacity (>3 MW) and need for local high-power cabinet. Discussion on magnetron options (€15–€600/unit; 1–1.5 kW air-cooled; ~96 units for B machine).

12. Client Collaboration

Client to assist during downtime to reduce installation costs; MEAM to supply personnel/equipment lists.

13. Additional Notes

• Ongoing bio-project noted by Thomas.

• Narrative shaping for management: CO_2 impact vs. biogas limits.

• Pulp drying economics: avoids disposal costs and yields returns.

• Seasonal chicory variations: plan sampling throughout campaign.

• Pre-treatment may include hygienisation; belt distribution critical.

14. Final Remarks

• Frédéric remains primary Cosucra contact.

• Javad and Jules to advance B machine simulations for the B machine.