

A systematic approach to separation of waste glycol

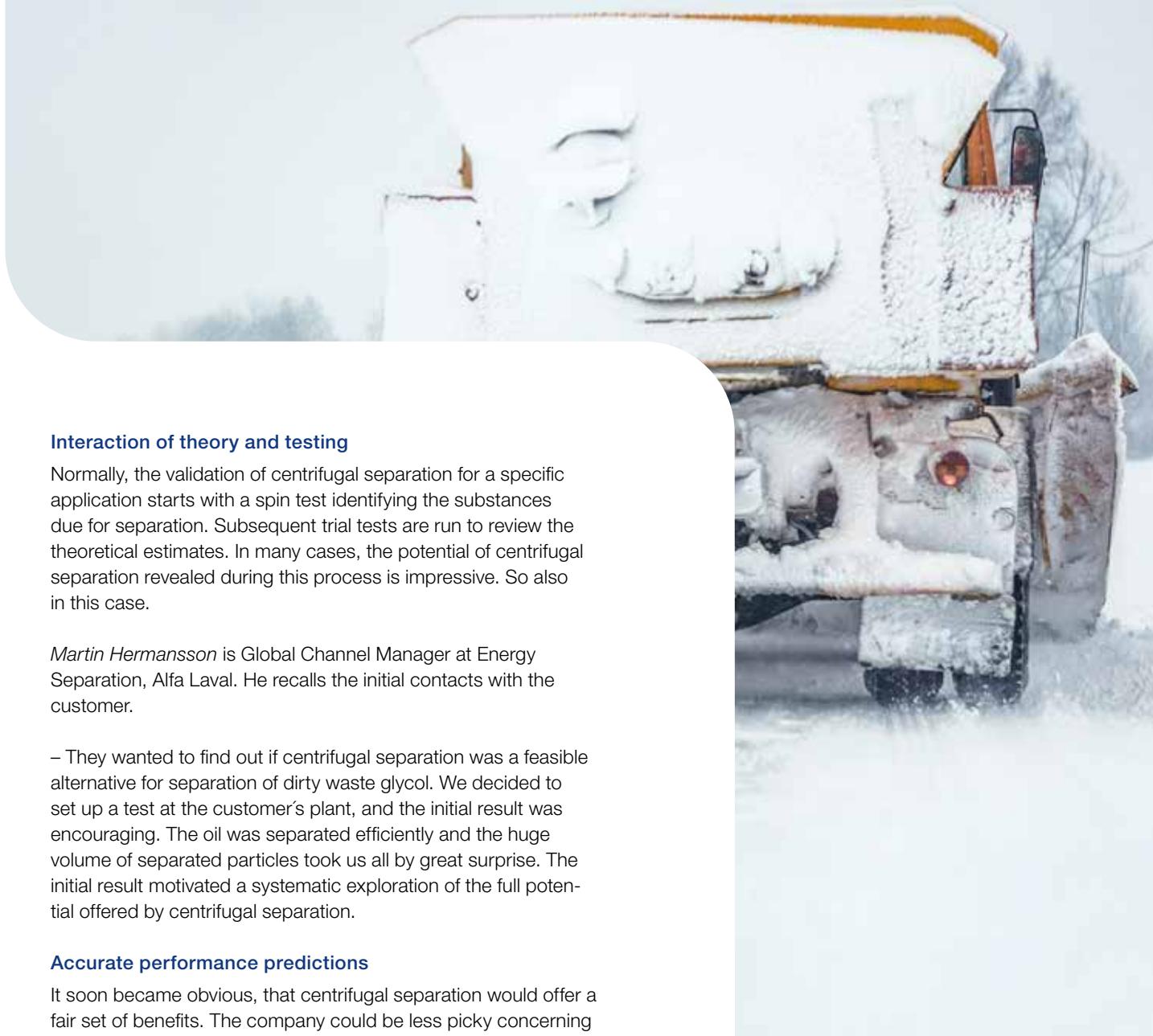
One of our separation customers is a Swedish pioneer in recovery of glycol, an antifreeze additive used e.g. for cooling of car engines. When the company realized that their future growth called for an expanded raw material base – i.e. by addition of heavily polluted waste glycol – they set out to find a separation technology meeting this challenge. Contacts with Alfa Laval lead to a systematic exploration of the potential offered by centrifugal separation.

An urgent need

Traditionally, waste glycol has been shipped to heating plants to be utilized as a fuel. Since the energy content of glycol is low and the handling calls for strict security measures, this process is costly. Since the commercial potential of glycol recycling therefore was obvious, our customer felt an urgent need to find a technology brav-ing the separation challenge posed by “dirty” glycol.

The initial result was encouraging. The oil was separated efficiently and the huge volume of separated particles took us all by great surprise.





Interaction of theory and testing

Normally, the validation of centrifugal separation for a specific application starts with a spin test identifying the substances due for separation. Subsequent trial tests are run to review the theoretical estimates. In many cases, the potential of centrifugal separation revealed during this process is impressive. So also in this case.

Martin Hermansson is Global Channel Manager at Energy Separation, Alfa Laval. He recalls the initial contacts with the customer.

– They wanted to find out if centrifugal separation was a feasible alternative for separation of dirty waste glycol. We decided to set up a test at the customer's plant, and the initial result was encouraging. The oil was separated efficiently and the huge volume of separated particles took us all by great surprise. The initial result motivated a systematic exploration of the full potential offered by centrifugal separation.

Accurate performance predictions

It soon became obvious, that centrifugal separation would offer a fair set of benefits. The company could be less picky concerning the level of pollution in the waste glycol brought in for treatment. They could also eliminate the previous labour cost derived from manual cleansing of equipment.

Thanks to a systematic approach to new separation challenges, our customer was able to solve a difficult problem. They could add volumes of waste glycol for treatment, thus building a solid base for expansion of their business. For further understanding of the Alfa Laval approach to separation challenges, please visit our web portal Explore. This robust tool will guide you through early-stage simulation and inform you on the testing procedures. Welcome to visit at <https://explore.alfalaval.com/>



How to contact Alfa Laval

Up-to-date Alfa Laval contact details for all countries are always available on our website at www.alfalaval.com

100000111-1-EN 2011

Alfa Laval reserves the right to change specifications without prior notification.