Centrale de Provence, E.ON
Gardanne, France

The German utility company E.ON, owner of the 2500MW coal power plant in Gardanne, a short ride north from Marseille, decided in the year 2012 to convert one of their existing coal boilers to 600MWth wood based biomass boiler and shut the old coal boiler down.

The new operation in centered around the biomass boiler that will produce 150MW of electricity and therefore will be among the top three most powerful biomass boilers in the world. The enormous scale requires enormous capacity for biomass processing. The wood consumption of the plant will amount to 900.000 tons/year. Of this, 400.000 tons will be imported and remaining 500.000 tons will be sourced locally in France from within the radius of 400 km.
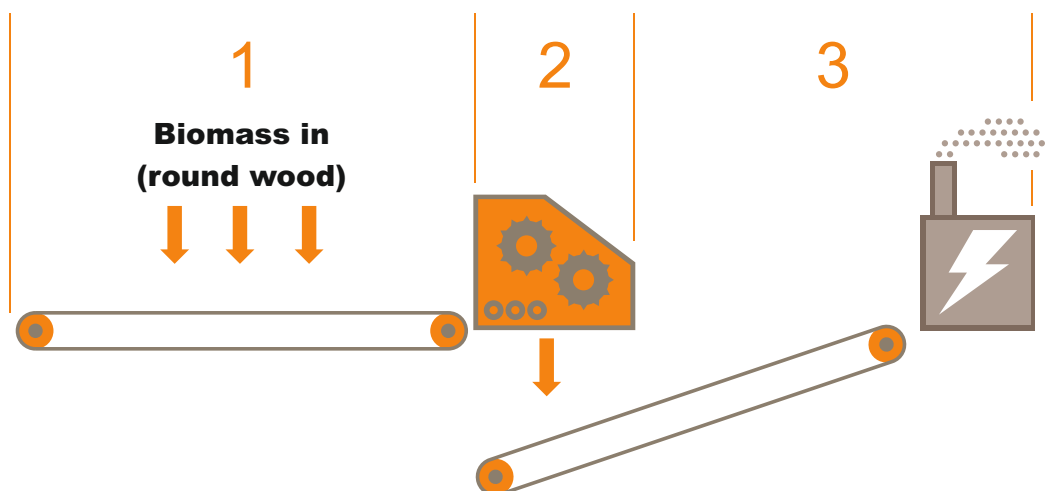
In order to secure the biomass flow to the boiler E.ON decided to build a chipping platform in the immediate vicinity of the boiler. E.ON chose to invest in Saalasti Chipper 1218H with the capacity of 100 tons/hour. That equals a staggering annual capacity of about 300.000 tons.

E.ON's commitment to Saalasti was not a shot in the dark. E.ON has a long track record of operating a similar chipper in their facility in Örebro in central Sweden.

The chipper in Gardanne is used to process all sorts of woody biomass into combustible form, including whole trees, logs, reclaimed wood from demolition sites, cargo pallets, bundles and pre-crushed stumps. The processed material is reduced to size P63.

SAALASTI

E.ON Gardanne

Biomass processing system

1 — Biomass in (round wood)

2

3

1

Saalasti Feeder:
- Size 1800 x 31450 mm
- Noise reduction tunnel
- Metal detector

Loading by excavator with grapple
Long feeder enables secure loading of two truck simultaneously

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2

Saalasti Chipper 1218H:
- Installed in 2014
- Motor power 2 x 630 kW
- Cutting tools: chipper knives
- Capacity 100 t/h*
- Particle size: P63

Feedstock: 70 % softwood, 30 % hardwood

Obtainable capacity through optimization and upgrades is 150 t/h*

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3 **Discharge Conveyor:**

To the power plant (150 MWe)

*Nominal capacity, softwood

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