EGYPT BASIC INDUSTRIES CORP.

Egypt Basic Industries Corporation (EBIC), a petrochemicals producer and one of the largest fertiliser exporters on the Suez Canal, has been shortlisted for the DuPont Safety and Sustainability Awards due to the company’s achievements in executing an innovative approach to safety.

With construction finalised in a strategic location next to Sokhna Port in 2009, EBIC’s flagship greenfield anhydrous ammonia facility yielded its first substantive output in April that year. The plant has operated continuously in the period since, producing in excess of 2,000 tons of ammonia per day (equating to over 0.7 million tons annually), which is then shipped to international markets via a direct pipeline link to a new bulk liquid export terminal on the Red Sea.

The need for a world-class safety program was recognised by EBIC early on, as well as the challenge in instituting gradual cultural change amongst staff drawn from companies where safety management may have been a lower priority, and in a regulatory environment lacking a strong safety framework.

One of the greatest risks faced by EBIC employees was travel to and from work—in many cases, requiring long distance commutes. While acknowledging the impossibility of controlling the actions of other drivers, EBIC realised the habits of employees and contractors could be influenced positively.

Through a combination of awareness campaigns, defensive driving training and In Vehicle Management Systems (IVMS), the company has identified key trends to improve driving practices. More broadly, the safety focus on and off the job has encouraged staff to remain vigilant in both their work and private lives. Encouragingly, this has had a positive on site flow-on effect, with a 2012 (up to August) injury frequency rate of zero, compared to a corresponding rate of 12.89 in 2011.

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