

A passion for processing technology

For the past ten years, SiccaDania has developed a reputation for creating solutions customers want. Now, following a significant takeover, the company has redefined itself as a process specialist within the food and dairy industries. CEO Lone Thiel Høgholt explained what this means for the company, during an in-depth interview with Inside Food & Drink. Report by Imogen Ward.

Young at heart but spurred on by the long-standing expertise of its workforce, Denmark-based SiccaDania prides itself on its ingenuity, flexibility and experience when creating new technological solutions.

“SiccaDania was established by a group of entrepreneurial young engineers in a business dominated by big players,” explained CEO Lone Thiel Høgholt. “They felt the market was in need of a flexible, adaptable and customer-oriented player – elements that are important to customers.

Perfecting the approach

Since its establishment, SiccaDania has maintained that all important customer-centric approach, whilst designing and

producing various machines for spray drying and evaporation within the dairy industry. Latterly, the company has diversified to offer fans, vacuum filters, cyclones for powder separation and other technologies.

Currently, the company offers complete process lines for several sectors, including starch, fibre and protein, where clients can take advantage of SiccaDania’s One-In-All-Out technology concept. This approach allows food manufacturers to maximise the utilisation of raw plant materials and the valorisation of side-streams to produce high-quality food ingredients, minimise cost of waste handling, maximise process revenues and mitigate use of core resources such as water and energy. ▽



CEO Lone Thiel Høgholt



The company also offers top-quality dairy powder plants with a capacity ranging from 500,000 litres of milk per day to two million litres per day – ensuring every last drop is handled with care from reception to powder.

As a smaller-sized company surrounded by large competitors, SiccaDania has found its niche within the market thanks to its ability to offer a more personal, project-centric approach that is flexible and customisable to the varying needs of each client.

“We can design and develop entire process lines for our customers, not just singular pieces of equipment,” said Ms Thiel Høgholt. “And we can do so with extreme flexibility.”

This is an approach that the business was keen to hold onto when it was acquired by Invex Group last year.

The takeover

In June last year, SiccaDania’s parent company went into reconstruction, leaving the company looking for a new home – which it found with investment company Invex Group. The group acquired several subsidiaries alongside SiccaDania, adding them to an already fruitful portfolio of engineering companies from a broad range of sectors,

including aerospace, oil and gas, and scientific research.

“The first year, of course, was a year of adjustments,” said Ms Thiel Høgholt. “There have been changes made to local management, which were put in place ready for summer this year. We have also redefined ourselves as a process specialist within the food and dairy industries, moving away from our roots as a one-stop-processing-shop.”

Additionally, the acquisition has opened unexpected doors for the processing plant expert. Thanks to Invex Group’s most recent acquisition of Scandinavian Energy Contractor in November 2023, SiccaDania is now connected to an expert in sustainable energy and resource recovery solutions. Having already begun to collaborate with several clients on the development of energy recovery systems, this new connection is particularly promising for SiccaDania.

“Anything we do going forward, has to involve an element of sustainability and improved energy efficiency,” explained Ms Thiel Høgholt. “One of our more recent focuses has been on developing energy recovery systems within our process plants. With Scandinavian Energy Contractor now part of the Invex Group, there is an opportunity for a potential knowledge transfer to further progress this development.”



Promoting plant-based

Another new area that SiccaDania is exploring is the plant-based sector. With this market predicted to be worth around \$87 billion by 2032, and demand for the diet continuing to soar, SiccaDania is zeroing in on perfecting the machinery needed to process great quality plant-based protein.

“The vegan movement right now is huge,” commented Ms Thiel Høgholt. “More and more people are choosing plant-based protein in favour of animal protein, and we want to be a part of that movement.”

So far, SiccaDania has developed two complete process lines for this sector, which were delivered ready for this Summer. According to Ms Thiel Høgholt, the company is confident it will continue to experience success as this segment matures.

Expanding its capabilities would not have been achievable without the hard work and dedication of SiccaDania’s supply chain.

“Our suppliers are everything,” explained Ms Thiel Høgholt. “When we supply a process plant, we need to be able to speak for the quality of the plant’s technical solution and the components that go into it. For that reason, we work with some very strong partners, which we know we can trust to provide the quality required.”

“Our supply chain is an element where we cannot afford to take any chances, and we don’t.”

SiccaDania is proud to have forged such long-standing relationships with its suppliers – some of these companies have worked with the plant manufacturer from day one.

“Even during troubled times, our suppliers proved excellent and extremely cooperative to ensure operations continued,” continued Ms Thiel Høgholt. “We are so grateful for their continued loyalty and for giving us the opportunity to show just how resilient we can be.”

Moving on up

As it looks to the future, SiccaDania intends to continue evolving, whilst retaining that all important customer focus.

“We aspire to become the preferred partner for customised and sustainable solutions within the food and dairy industry, and we intend to accomplish that in close cooperation with our customers,” said Ms Thiel Høgholt, in conclusion. “We are confident that we will achieve our goals, because SiccaDania is built up of an extremely skilled group of specialists who are passionate in their desire to ensure the company’s success.”

“Being able to share our victories with such a dynamic team is one of the best parts of the job. Keeping that entrepreneurial spirit alive is possible thanks to our small size and our dedication to maintaining that extra personal touch.” ■

