

“Big Bertha” – large vessel for bio-diesel plant in Hong Kong

Did you know that cooking oils and fats can save our ever scarcer energy resources?

Used cooking oils, animal fats and plants such as oil-seed rape represent an important source of energy. Modern technologies can be used to turn these waste materials into bio-diesel. This not only protects the environment better, because no carbon dioxide is emitted, but also because they are available in sufficient quantities since unlike fossil energy sources, oil-seed rape grows again.

BUTTING China in collaboration with BUTTING Anlagenbau in Schwedt has constructed and delivered several large vessels and pipes for the retention period in the plant.



With a diameter of more than 5 metres and more than 18 metres high, the so-called “Big Bertha” is the largest vessel delivered to this bio-diesel plant in Hong Kong. The size of the vessel made transporting it a challenge.

The journey of around 1,200 kilometres from the factory in Shanghai to the construction site in Hong Kong began on a lorry. Then the next stage went by the waters of the Yangtse river from the nearby port of Shanghai. From the river, the load had to be transported across the Yellow Sea to Hong Kong, then unloaded again in the harbour there. Because of the construction situation there, no transport ships are used, only barques, and it took the vessels a week to reach their destination.

As well as “Big Bertha”, four smaller columns, the largest 15 metres high, and with 12 metre stainless steel pipes made of material 316L, weighing more than 30 tonnes, were delivered to the construction site in Hong Kong.

The close collaboration between the various BUTTING companies again proved its worth with this order, so that our customer was able to take advantage of the comprehensive BUTTING know-how.

BUTTING – Progress by Tradition