

# Tank Cleaning Magazine

SUMMER 2016

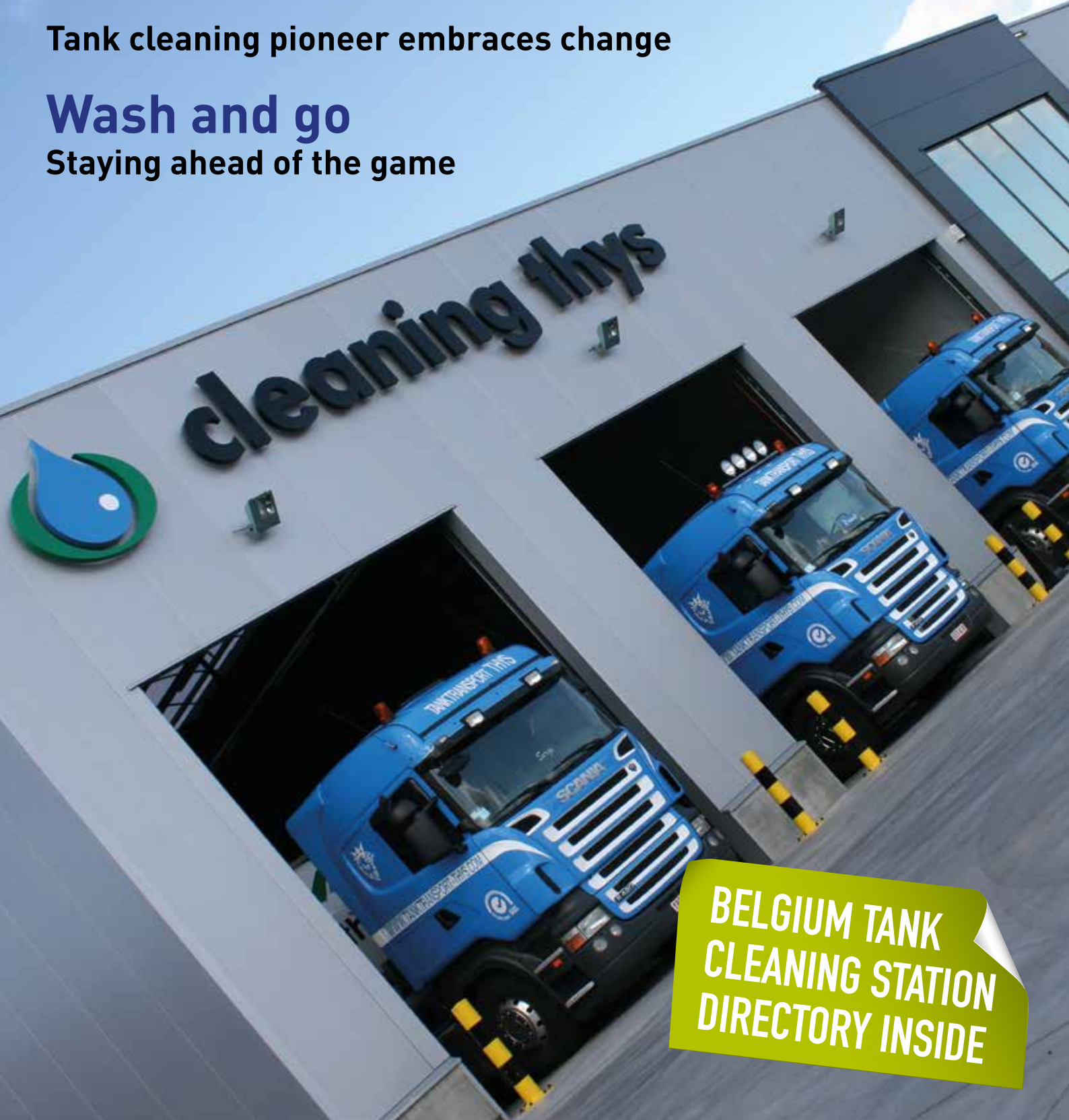
Issue 2 Volume 3

## Home sweet home

Tank cleaning pioneer embraces change

## Wash and go

Staying ahead of the game



**BELGIUM TANK  
CLEANING STATION  
DIRECTORY INSIDE**

# Tank cleaning firm to ce

Shipper Ulrich Bresser was not satisfied with seeking the services of a tank cleaning



TTC's CEO Ulrich Bresser

## How did you get into tank cleaning?

After completing my degree in business administration, I entered the transport industry in 1990. Since 1992, I had been working at shipping

company Europaverkehr Hamme + Co. (Hamco) as a managing director. This is based in Aachen, a town in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany. The company provides transportation, logistics and haulage services in Germany.

As the shipping company began to grow, the demands for cleaning the silo truck fleets that transported the goods also began to grow. Various service providers in the region were tested. However, I was not satisfied with any of them. I saw a great deal of potential for optimisation, especially when it came to the waiting times for customers.

It is all about perfect processes in the shipping sector. It is also about time. As soon as a process is not running optimally and you therefore have to wait, you or your customer are losing money. My vision was for a cleaning company that thinks just like logisticians and also transfers this standard to the cleaning process. Ultimately, cleaning is a part of the entire logistics chain.

In 2008, I founded Top Tank Cleaning (TTC). I manage this in parallel with Hamco. TTC has now become an institution in the greater Cologne area.

## Once you established TTC, what was our strategy?

Minimum waiting times, maximum cleaning performance – this is the unique selling point of TTC. The entire cleaning process is automated. The control software Act Control and TSC Cleaning analyse various data, such as the type of vehicle, the tank size as well as the type and concentration of residue in the tanks. Based on this,

the ideal amount of cleaning agent is calculated. Nothing is left to chance, from the pre-washing to the drying. The latter is performed with hot air to minimise the waiting times for customers.

In essence, sensors decide how much cleaning agent, water and hot air are required so that the vehicles are 100% hygienically cleaned, but no resources and time are wasted. For, in the end, this would ultimately be to the detriment of our customers.

## Do you see any new trends in the industry?

It has always been common practice for us to clean silo transporters with dry products and tankers with liquids at a proportion of approximately 45:55%.

## You say that maximising cleaning performance is one of your unique selling points. What other opportunities will TTC offer to tank cleaners?

Besides a perfect cleaning result, it is particularly important to have thoroughly

TTC headquarters in Cologne, Germany



TTC's high-pressure pumps and its heat exchanging devices



## How do you actually clean a chocolate tanker?

To clean a tank truck filled with chocolate is a tricky matter. Yet, Cologne-based Top Tank Cleaning (TTC) has a few tricks up its sleeve to remove the sweet stuff

"The tank truck must first be brought to the right temperature before the initial rinse cycle," said TTC CEO Ulrich Bresser.

In fact, the solid chocolate has to be liquefied in order to remove it completely. For this purpose, the company has a special steam unit on the

# celebrate solid eight years

company. So, he started one himself in Germany. TCM catches up with him

trained staff for price inquiries and explanations of the cleaning methods. Customers greatly appreciate that. The drivers are as happy to meet friendly check-in staff as they are about the possibility of receiving complementary hot and cold drinks and a snack from our company during each cleaning. Of course, the free showers and our loyalty card system are also very popular.

The documenting process is just as fastidious at our company as the cleaning process itself. Every work process, the training of staff, the exact steps of machine operation – everything is recorded in writing. Some new employees are amazed at how precisely we have regulated everything. But in this way, no one is left alone and everyone knows what needs to be done.

#### What does your company do to minimise its impact on the environment?

TTC has its own water treatment systems and even exhaust air

cleaning systems so that the load on sewage water and ecological systems is reduced to a minimum.

#### Do you have any expansion plans?

Investments are continuously made in the expansion and improvement of the company. For example, the licenses to clean more hazardous materials were recently expanded. TTC is now permitted to clean substances that are carcinogenic, harmful to reproduction and mutagenic. It may also clean highly volatile, halogenated hydrocarbons and substances that contain free chlorine. Hygiene is ensured at all times through certifications pursuant to hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP) and separate cleaning systems for food and non-food.

A special sand blasting system for multiple document interface (MDI) containers with a riser pipe is among the unique selling points. This is used to clear dome and hose boxes or to clean silos with

residues of cement, gypsum or limescale.

Only one cleaning process is done completely without computer assistance at TTC, and entirely by hand – the free shower for truck drivers.

#### You're now celebrating eight years since you started TTC. What does the future hold?

In October 2016, we will be celebrating our eighth anniversary. We are proud to be welcoming virtually all renowned silo and tank transport companies at our sites. Of course nobody knows what the future has in store, but we will be mobilising considerable investments this year to improve the drivers' stays even more. In addition, we are also working on options for further accelerating the turnaround time for the lorries at peak times. Without sacrificing any of our high-quality service, of course. We are also considering integrating a cleaning service for intermediate bulk containers (IBC) containers to complete our range of services. ■



TTC's steam unit



TTC's osmosis system decalcifies the cleaning water



TTC's osmosis system

cleaning tank. This is connected with the tank truck through a tanker coupling, whereby the ventilation system can circulate freely in the tank.

The temperature in the tank must reach at least 100°C to carry out proper cleaning. Throughout the cleaning, steam must continuously be reproduced in order to avoid solidification of the chocolate. For this, a flow path heater with boilers is used, which constantly measures and maintains the target value of 100°C.

After the right temperature has been reached, cleaning with water-powered, high-pressure nozzles and a special food processing detergent is performed.

In addition, a so-called osmosis system is activated, which, among other things, decalcifies the cleaning water so that the drinking water quality remains guaranteed. After all, the tank will be loaded with food again and thus must be cleaned in such a way as to ensure food safety.

The steam supply can only be stopped when the tank is 100% chocolate free.

Subsequently, even the waste water is purified. TTC has its own water treatment systems and even exhaust air cleaning systems so that the load on sewage water and ecological systems is reduced to a minimum.

Now, the tanker can leave the premises and continue to the next delivery. Maybe it will be reloaded with chocolate again.

Inner tank cleaning  
for silo and tank vehicles



# Your Perfect Cleaning Service for the Rhineland.

NEW  
Certified for even  
more hazardous  
substances



Those who pass Cologne will not miss us. For one thing due to the ideal transport connection to the highway and the container terminal. For another because we offer many services that you will not get elsewhere: We are certified for special hazardous materials and clean according to the strictest hygienic, legal and environmental requirements. Whether you would like to have your food tanks, silo tanks or chemical tanks cleaned - we do it all.

Carcinogens  
Hazardous to reproduction  
Genetically harmful  
volatile halogenated hydrocarbons  
substances containing free chlorine

You can rely on:



HYGIENE



HIGH-SPEED



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



KNOW-HOW



QUALITY MANAGEMENT



SERVICE



Accessories & spare parts | Bistro | Driver showers | Bonus cards



Opening hours:  
» Mon. - Fri. 6:00 am - 10:00 pm  
and also by prior appointment

Am Eifeltor 4 (access 2) | 50997 Cologne

Phone.: +49 221 - 36 79 39-17 | Fax: +49 221 - 36 79 39-15  
info@ttc-koeln.de | www.ttc-koeln.de