

# Planning is the key to success

When a food manufacturer contemplates an extension to an existing facility or a move into a new facility, there are a number of critical issues to be considered at the outset, according to Waterman AHW.

Waterman AHW is a successful joint venture between Australian and UK professionals, with its Australian headquarters in Chatswood, Sydney.

When it comes to considering an extension or a move, it is necessary to develop a clear definition of the business needs with particular emphasis on product types, forecast sales, production processes, on-site versus off-site warehousing, market demographics, staffing, management needs, communication issues, environmental policies and project budget.

The next step is to develop manufacturing models for the production and packaging processes.

This can be done by using graphical computer modelling or by simple spreadsheet modelling, depending on the complexity of the processes and level of automation. Process flows are decided as part of this development.

Concept designs are then done to translate the process flows into a scaled drawing which will determine the physical requirements of the facility.

A concept design of the building is then completed, which is required to house the processes, warehousing, office, plant rooms and amenities. Architectural issues are addressed for aesthetic, building regulations, OH&S and good manufacturing practice.

Building and process services issues have also to be considered such as fire protection, electrical, ventilation, air conditioning, communications and IT cabling, plant and equipment and associated utilities.

At this stage, construction cost plans can be established.

Other aspects to be defined at this time include trade waste, hazardous goods storage/handling, noise, emissions to atmosphere and utilities.

For a new facility, site options are then assessed for zoning, location, size, servicing, access, transportation, parking and statutory approvals. Detailed budget project costs for each option can then be established.

A financial analysis of the various options can be made using discounted cash flow modelling, and an informed selection made on the most appropriate and cost effective option to proceed with.

Careful thought and consideration



**Process service issues must be resolved prior to new plant or upgrade start ups, says one of the leaders in turnkey design, AHW Waterman.**

given to these issues early in the project form a solid foundation on which successful and relevant detail designs can be developed.

The project can then proceed with a high degree of confidence that the desired outcome will be achieved and that cost over-runs don't occur.

These early stage works are critical to the successful outcome of new or expanded manufacturing facility designs.

For further details, contact Glenn Botha, manager, manufacturing and industrial services, Waterman AHW, (02 9411 9900).



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