

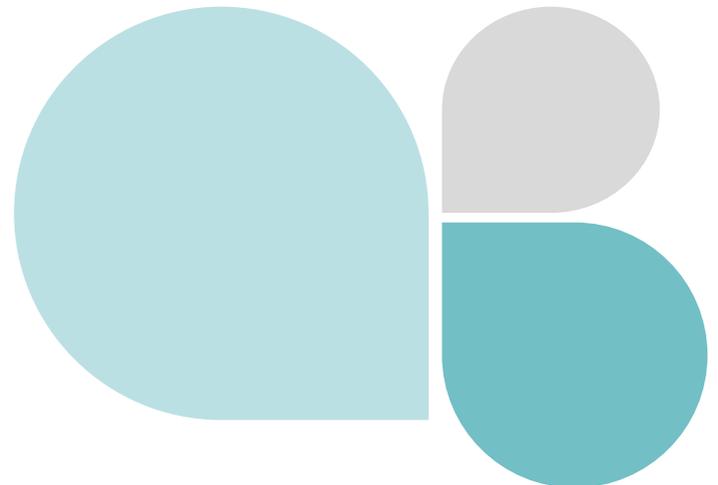


Reliable Bar Screens and Perforated-Plate Screens, for Many Years of Operation

Reynosa is a city in the Mexican state of Tamaulipas, across the Rio Grande from McAllen, Texas. With a population of approx. 510,000, it is the location of several satellite U.S. companies and “maquiladoras” doing business to take advantage of lower labor rates and industry incentives. It is a fast growing city with a vibrant economy.

Tecnología Intercontinental (TICSA), one of Mexico’s top contracting firms in the water and wastewater sector, won the contract for two wastewater treatment plants to serve this city. In 2007, they began the process of selection and supply of equipment. The selection of screening equipment was one of the critical aspects at this point.

As Mr. Roberto Primelles, Technical Director at TICSA explains: *“We are involved in BOT (Build Operate Transfer) projects for municipal wastewater treatment plants in Mexico. In the majority of these contracts, we are responsible for the operation of the plants for periods of up to 20 years. The biggest problem we have experienced with mechanical screens in the past is that the screens fail to perform as promised. Many screens we have used in the past have required continuous repairs and we’ve also had some cases where the screens had to be completely refurbished or even replaced after a very short time. As a result of this, and being*



BOT contracts, we have to absorb the cost related to the refurbishment/replacements of the screens plus we also have to deal with any other costs which are a consequence of the screens' improper work, such as clogging or even damages of equipment downstream.”

In addition to that, the conditions of the municipal wastewater in Mexico bring up a second set of challenges. *“To make matters worse, the sewers in many parts of Mexico tend to bring all kinds of large and heavy items to the plants. The screens, being the first line of defense, have to be strong enough to not only cope with these items, but also to effectively screen them out and continue working. If you combine*

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this with a 20-year operations contract you can understand why we are so concerned about choosing the right screens," explained Mr. Primelles.

Unlike many of the mechanical screens currently available in the market, the Headworks MS Bar Screen will withstand such abuse for 20 years or more, requiring only basic spares and minimal maintenance. In the long run, therefore, its life-cycle cost is exponentially lower over the years than that of its "less expensive" competitors.

After the excellent results they experienced with the Headworks MS Bar screen installed at the "Cerro de la Estrella" WWTP in Mexico City in 2006 the engineers at TICSA were confident that this was the right choice for these two new plants.

