

# Local Project, Global Expertise // Mexico

**“We faced a big challenge, but also an opportunity”, says Alfredo Leal, Plant Manager at Smurfit Kappa Los Reyes Paper Mill in Mexico. “It was the combination of local resources and the Group’s global expertise that led to our success.”**

Staff at SK Los Reyes Mill wanted to replace their 50-year-old boxboard machine with a rebuilt containerboard machine, to meet the paper needs of SK Mexico and improve integration with the corrugated division. The site already had a smaller containerboard machine, which would provide the workers with expertise for the new one.

However, the team knew they could get better value from the new machine, and consulted with SK globally. The Paper Production Technology teams in Europe and the Americas, the Global Sourcing team, and colleagues from Colombia, Europe, and the US were invaluable.

All this led to the following design improvements:

- Stock preparation using the Smurfit Kappa blueprint, meaning less equipment used and energy saved
- Two fire tube boilers, saving fuel and steam during machine breaks
- Thermocompression systems, to get the most efficiency out of the dryer sections
- Tri-nip configuration, including a shoe press, improving dryness speed and efficiency
- Heating the closed hood via an energy-recovery system

These improvements led to a production design of 100,000 tonnes/year – 25,000 tonnes more than the machine’s original capacity. This, along with the more efficient boilers, led to a 13% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> per tonne of paper in 2019. By the second year, with a better than expected ramp-up and good financial results, SK Los Reyes Mill was awarded Group Company of the Year in SK Mexico.

“The biggest success factor was opening ourselves to the Group’s global expertise, knowledge and support while working on a local project,” says Alfredo. “It shows the power of having a global network, and I want to thank everyone who has participated and supported us during this journey”

