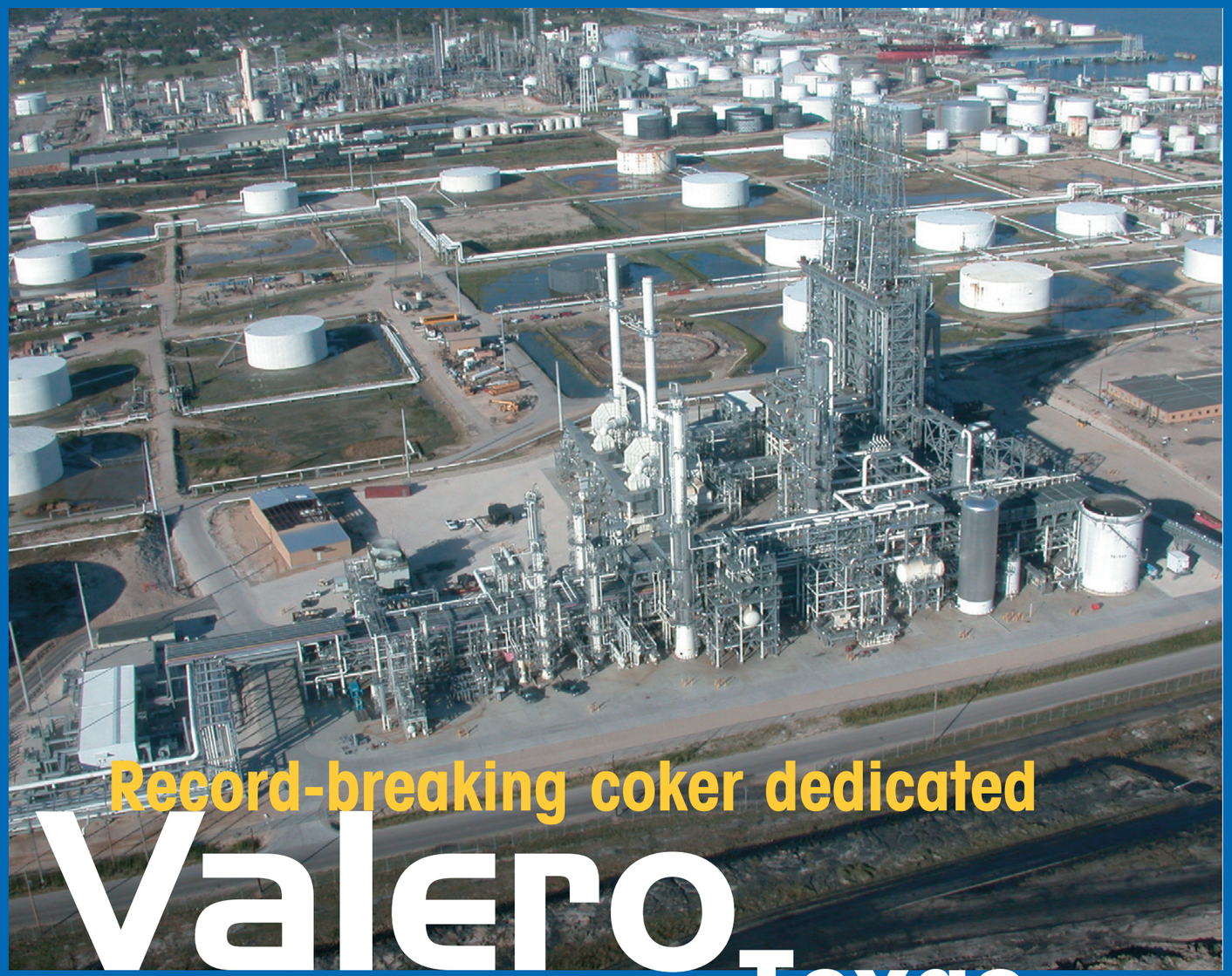

Record-breaking coker dedicated

Valero Texas

The new 45,000 barrels per day (BPD) delayed coker at Valero's Texas City Refinery was formally dedicated on 17 December at a ceremony in the refinery led by Valero's chairman and ceo, Bill Greehy. Texas City Mayor Carlos Garza and other Valero executives, local refinery employees and representatives from Foster Wheeler and several of the major construction subcontractors all joined in the celebration and barbeque luncheon.

Mr Greehey told the attendees that *"...the Texas City refinery is now the world-class facility our employees deserve."* As a result of the new coker and other improvements, the refinery's total throughput capacity is now 243,000 barrels per day.

Foster Wheeler's Houston office completed the EPC project in less than 28 months from process design through to mechanical completion, a new record for a major coker project. The project was completed under budget and was in operation less than a week following mechanical completion, thanks to a very aggressive systems completion and turnover programme implemented by the Foster Wheeler and Valero project teams.

The new coker allows Valero to process 90,000 BPD of heavy Maya crude from Mexico's Pemex under a new supply agreement. The addition of the lower cost Maya crude is expected to produce savings in excess of $100 million per year for the refinery.

NPRA
Annual Meeting

21-23 March 2004
San Antonio - Texas

This National Petrochemical and Refiners' Association event assembles over 1,800 key executives and technical experts from refining and marketing organisations world-wide, as well as representatives from associated industries.

John Elliott, director, refining and coking, Foster Wheeler Houston, is presenting a paper entitled 'Delayed coker revamps: realising their objectives'.

John will examine the range of delayed coker revamp objectives, such as increased capacity, improved yields, improved safety, lower operating costs and improved product quality, and how these can best be achieved. For comparison, he will also review typical 'best-in-class' design and operating parameters for new cokers.

Most coker revamps revolve around increased capacity for the refiner and the paper will address the importance of enhanced coker design and operations to the refiner.

The increased capacity is commonly achieved by revamping for short cycle operations. The design and operating considerations for increasing capacity through short cycles include evaluations of numerous items such as coke drum operations, coker heater, blowdown system, warm-up system, cutting operations, relief systems and fractionator internals.

For more information on delayed coking, please contact: refining@fwc.com