

# NAVIGATING TOWARDS GREENER FUTURE

Navigating Towards Greener Future in Coal Cumbustion through Dynamic Coal Flow Monitoring and Balancing System



# RELIABILITY OF GENERATION DURING FLEXIBILIZATION

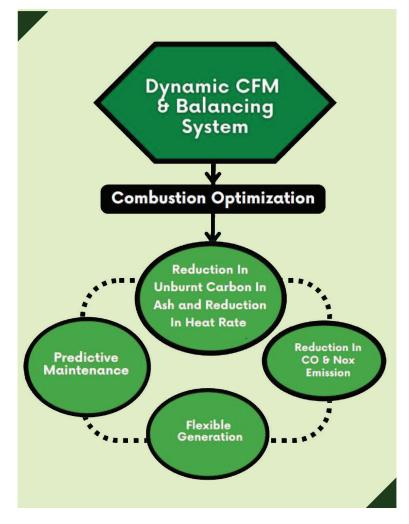
Evolve offers Technology to manage power plant operation to improve performance, reliability and safety during flexibilization operation.

Demand for reliable supply of electricity In sync with solar generation.

Coal based power plants at minimum load of 40 % at day time and full load at night is a challenging situation. Continuous ramp down and ramp up effects the boiler health.

In order to minimize the ramp up and ramp down shocks to boiler needs parameters to be digitally controlled:

- 1. Coal flow balancing
- 2. Reduction in fouling
- 3. Oxygen level control
- 4. Optimize combustion
- 5. Real time data analysis
- 6. Advanced monitoring and controls
- 7. Predictive maintenance



We at Evolve developed a software and hardware, so our customers better control the cost of operations and maintenance. Evolve software is real time analytic software that helps coal-based power plant personals to monitor and analysis the operational parameters so that coal flow imbalances are minimized.

It is presumed that all the pipes originating through the milt of carry almost equal coal flow. But microwave sensors provided data narrates a different story. The highest coal carrying pipe is carrying 33% (shortest length) of the total coal transported while the longest length pipe carries just 15% of the total coal flow. In case of 40% minimum total feeding of coal to the mill is maintained 20 MT/ hr. therefore mass flow in pipe 1 is 5.8 mt/hr. Pipe 2 is 6.6 mt/hr. pipe 3 is 4.6 mt/hr. and pipe 4 carrying 3 Mt/hr. primary air and secondary air combines to provide enough combustion air for complete combustion.

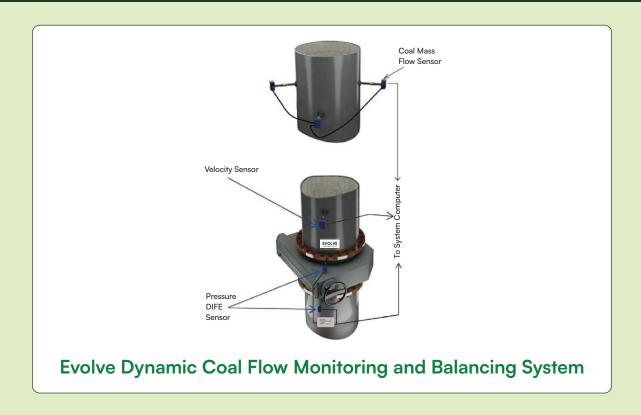
If combustion air is sufficient to provide complete combustion to 6.6 MT / hr for pipe 2 then it will be hugely excess for 3 MT /hr flow of pipe 4. The resultant would be that due to excess air for pipe 4 flame will be extinguish or vary inconsistent.

To overcome such situations, it is advisable to balance the coal flow. Our flow monitoring software for steam generators develop to meet requirements of flexibilization.

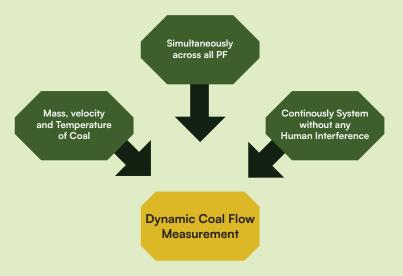
A TECHNICAL MARVEL WAITING TO BE EXPLORED

#### **GREEN COAL POWER GENERATION-**

## **Evolve Dynamic Coal Flow Monitoring and Balancing System**



The flow distribution between the coal pipes is achieved as the coal air mixture leaves from the pulverizer through a number of outlet pipes, each of which carries coal into one individual burner. The number of outlet pipes on a typical mill varies between 2 and 8. The distribution of primary air throughout the piping network is controlled by flow resistances of the various coal pipes. Because of differences in pipe lengths and numbers and types of elbows in each burner line, different coal pipes from a pulverizer has different flowresistances.



**EVOLVE'S DYNAMIC** COAL **FLOW** MONITORING AND BALANCING SYSTEM CAPABLE OF **CONTINUOUSLY** IS MEASURING COAL FLOW IN REAL TIME CONDITIONS USING MICROWAVE BASED SENSORS AND BASED ON OUTPUT OF COAL FLOW SYSTEM. COAL FLOW VALVES ARE USED FOR BALANCING THE **FLOWS** AND COAL VELOCITY.

#### PROJECTED IMPROVEMENTS

#### The system will benefit in the following areas:

01

#### **FLEXIBILISATION**

Rapid ramping of generation as per grid demand, down upto 40% technical minimum. NTPC has targeted readiness of plants to operate at 40% technical minimum.

Siemens has carried out Minimum Load Pilot Test at Unit-6 of NTPC Dadri TPS - 500 MW consisting of 6 Mills (Make: BHEL).

Finding of this report suggest that one of the most limiting factors preventing the minimum load being reduced further is "Flame intensity / combustion optimization at low load if specific coal is less than 0.6". Report also suggests that main challenges at low load is combustion behavior, Mill operation behavior and Mill operation data like coal mass flow patterns in pipes, coal/air temperature to burner.

02

#### **EMISSION CONTROL**

Combustion optimization techniques results in NOx reduction. Although NOx emissions from boilers are influenced by many factors. The most significant factor is flame temperature and excess primary air velocity. NOx is formed by reaction of nitrogen and oxygen present in air at flame temperature of more than 1700 deg C (Fusion temp of ash). This high temperature results in increase in NOx and ash slagging on boiler tube.

03

## HEAT RATE IMPROVEMENT AND REDUCTION IN UNBURNT ASH

As against designed efficiency of 39% Indian projects operate between 28-32% efficiency. Prime objective of Dynamic Coal Flow Monitoring and Balancing System is to maintain Air to Fuel ratio for optimized combustion. Reduction in Fly ash and bottom ash unburnt and reduction in super heater temperature and reduced slagging. The most frequent cause of extreme fuel imbalances is poor tuning of mass flow and velocity in coal pipes. Slagging leads to poor heat absorption by boiler tubes that lowers boiler efficiency. High Velocity of more than 27m/s and high volume of coal in burner results in high flame temperature (Fusion Temperature).

## THE SYSTEM

#### Evolve has adopted a novel approach

#### "Unless we can measure continously, we cannot improve."

Evolve Dynamic Coal Flow Monitoring and Manipulation System is an engineered system specifically designed to meet the requirements of Indian Power Plants operating at high ash content. With German collaboration - MIC Worldwide, Evolve has developed a package for real time measurement of important Coal flow parameters. These include:

- 1. Coal Mass Flow in each pipe
- 2. Coal Roping Area identification
- 3. Coal Temperature in each pipe
- 4. Coal Velocity in each pipe
- 5. Coal Flow Balancing with Coal Flow Valves



#### **Coal Flow Monitoring**

Evolve Dynamic Coal Flow Software is user friendly software, which has been designed keeping in view the parameters which would be most useful from operations and maintenance point of view. Software has evolved over the years after feedback from plants as well as understanding coal flow application and find tuning from time to time

#### PLACEMENT OF MICROWAVE BASED MASS FLOW SENSORS

Three microwave based mass flow sensors are installed in each coal pipe 120 degree apart as shown below. Mass flow sensors are placed in vertical section of the coal pipe, as close to the burner as possible. These sensors are responsible for measuring mass flow in each pipe and for indicating the areas of coal roping within the pipe.



#### PLACEMENT OF ELECTROSTATIC BASED VELOCITY SENSORS

Velocity sensor is installed 500 mm above the mass flow sensors. This is electrostatic sensor which measures the velocity of coal particles and temperature of coal particles within coal pipe.

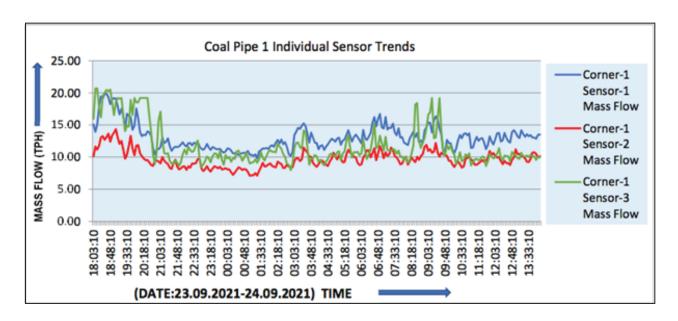


#### PLACEMENT OF COAL FLOW VALVES IN PIPELINE

Coal Flow valves are recommended for installation on mill outlet in order to Dynamically adjust the cross-sectional area of area pipe, thereby controlling the pipeline resistance and coal distribution from coal mill to coal pipe.



A TECHNICAL MARVEL WAITING TO BE EXPLORED O7



## NEED FOR CONTINUOUS MONITORING SYSTEM FOR EFFICIENT OPERATION

Graph represents coal mass flow of 1 coal pipe in 3 sections of same plane for a duration of almost 20 hours with constant feeder loading. It can be noticed that Mass flow is changing from 8-9 TPH to 20 TPH in this duration.

One section of pipe represented by Sensor-1 has very high coal flow as compared with other two sensors Manual equipment currently deployed, Dirty Pitot Tube can be measuring at any point in this pipe as there can be no knowledge of coal flow characteristics. Any point reading cannot be considered representative of the coal flow in the pipe.

The coal flow in coal pipes is a Dynamic 2 phase system. Coal flow conditions in coal pipes are continuously changing based on various parameters like moisture in coal, temperature, velocity, coal type, coal classification, coal density and many more. It extremely difficult to simulate / predict the actual pattern of flow in pipes. It varies not only from mill to mill but from pipe to pipe under various conditions.

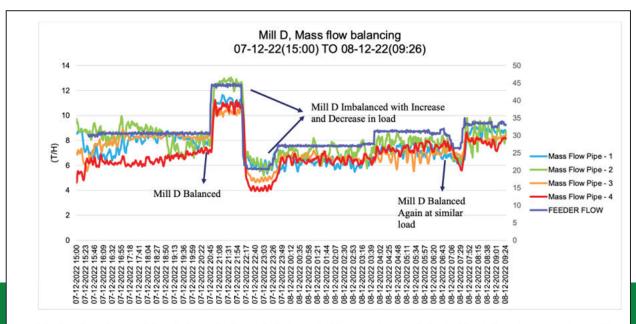
Manual techniques like Dirty Pitot Tube test assumes that coal flow in each pipe and at all time intervals is homogeneous. Hence, 1 or 2 readings in each pipe are considered to be representation of that pipe for entire duration. Coal flow cannot be conclusively by measured by any point analysis. It is only the study of trends which can prove useful for analysis of coal flow parameters. This necessitates the use of Dynamic and real time system for Coal Flow Monitoring.

# Flame Stability At Low Loads Heat Rate Improvement Reduction In Unburnt Ash

## NEED FOR CONTINUOUS MONITORING SYSTEM FOR FLEXIBILIZATION

Balanced coal flow is the requirement of power station as per recommendation of all OEMs. Traditionally, fixed orifices installed within the pipes are used to balance the clean air flows. While this can be an effective way of balancing air flow, evidence from field measurements suggests primary air flow balancing has little effect on distribution of coal flows between the coal pipes. Instead, the coal flow distribution among the outlet pipes is a dynamic phenomenon and is strongly influenced by factors such as mill loading, moisture in coal and coal type.

In order to study the impact of coal flow balancing with changing mill loads Evolve has carried out a test in 250 MW corner fired boiler in India.



It is clear from the graph how balanced mill gets imbalanced with steep changes in load without changing any valve position. For steep changes in load, it is essential to have continuous monitoring of mills and manipulation of valve in order to have a balanced flow and flame stability for low load operations.

It is evident from the graph that balanced coal flows in the mill gets imbalanced with steep changes in load without any change in valve position. For steep changes in load, it is essential to have continuous monitoring for mills and manipulation of valves in order to have a balanced flow and flame stability for low load operations. These findings are in sync with test runs low load carried out by Task Force at various plants where lack of flame stability at low loads was found to be one of the most limiting factors in flexing the thermal units.

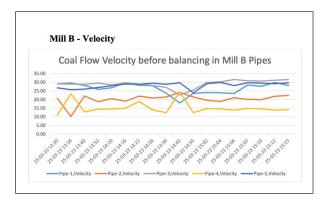
# REAL TIME DATA OF DEMONSTRATIONS AT POWER PLANTS:

Evolve has carried out multiple measurement and balancing assignments in India. To name few Power Plants:

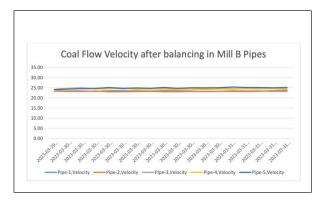
- 2X600 MW LANCO ANPARA (Wall Fired Boiler)
- 2X250 MW DSPM CSPGCL Korba (Corner Fired Boiler)
- 2X500 MW DVC Andal (Corner Fired Boiler)
- 2X500 MW TATA Maithan (Corner Fired Boiler)

#### **COAL VELOCITY BALANCING IN WALL FIRED BOILER**

#### Velocity (Pre Balancing)

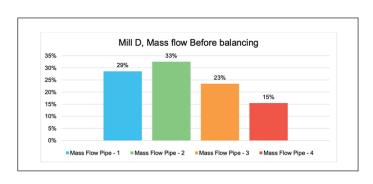


#### Velocity (Post Balancing)

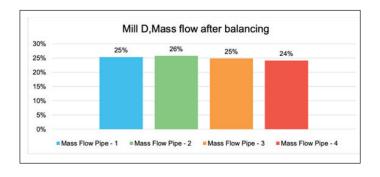


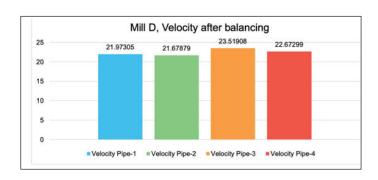
#### MASS FLOW BALANCING BY BMW COAL FLOW VALVES

Before commencing the test, Coal Flow Valve setting was kept at the equivalent setting of BHEL recommended fixed orifice ID.
At original fixed orifice settings, mass flow distribution obtained is as under:



#### MASS FLOW BALANCING BY BMW COAL FLOW VALVES



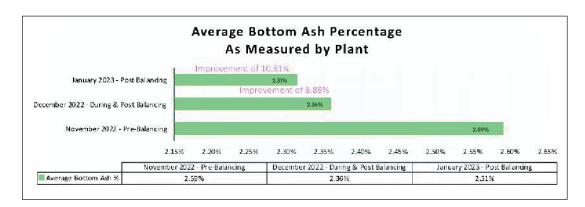


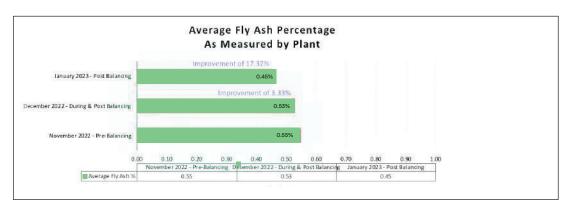
#### REDUCTION IN UNBURNT CARBON AND ASH

#### PLANT-1: CORNER FIRED BOILER - 250 MW

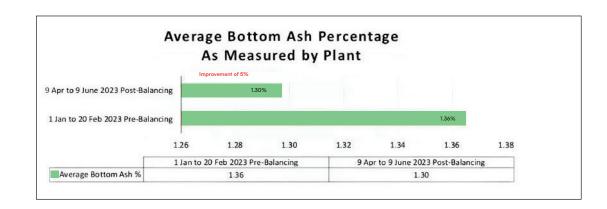
Improvement of 10.81%

Improvement of 17.32%



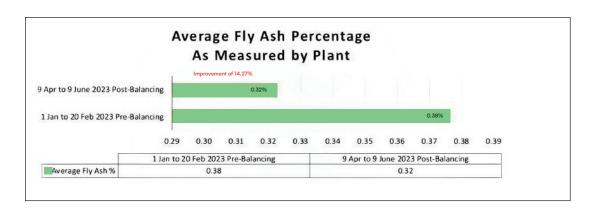


#### PLANT-2: WALL FIRED BOILER - 600 MW



Improvement of 5%

Improvement of 14.27%





#### SYSTEM HIGHLIGHTS

- Evolve Dynamic Coal Flow Monitoring System is a Make in India initiative
- It's an import substitute fully developed and indigenised by MSME
- Stable flame at flexible operations
- Balancing Valves is Patented Technology with more than 1,000 installations in India
- Dynamic Coal Flow Monitoring and Balancing is a proven technology under Indian conditions with the quantified benefits
- Excellent ROI of 8 months to 1.5 Years depending on plant to plant and operations
- Mass Flow Balancing and Coal Velocity Balancing has potential to improve following plant operation parameters:
  - i. Unburnt Carbon Percentage in Bottom Ash.
  - ii. Unburnt Carbon Percentage in Fly Ash.
  - iii. Gross Heat Rate
  - iv. Super Heater Inlet and Outlet Temperature differences
  - v. Oxygen Level Differences in LHS and RHS of furnace
  - vi. NOx Reduction
- Dynamic Coal Flow Monitoring and Balancing System is a very important tool for flexing the
   Thermal Power Fleet, where fast ramping is requirement

#### **TESTIMONIALS**



#### CHHATTISGARH STATE POWER GENERATION COMPANY LIMITED

#### Performance report of "Variable orifices & coal flow monitoring system"

With reference to above subject, an order for supply of "Variable orifices measurement of online coal flow" for XRP-883 coal mills of DSPM TPS Korba East placed on M/s Evolve Technologies Hathras, vide P.O. No. under ref (3). The above order has been completely executed and the material was received on td. 30.06.2022. These Orifices have been installed in mills 1A, 1B, 1C & 1D of U#1 during AOH in AUG-22. Also, the balancing of coal pipes were carried out in all 4 mills in Nov-22. The following observations were found after balancing of coal pipes:

#### Improvement in GUHR as compared to pre-balancing.

- 1 Reduction in Unburnt carbon in Bottom Ash as compared to pre-balancing.
- 2 Reduction in Unburnt Carbon in Fly Ash as compared to pre-balancing.
- Reduction in NOx values of flue gases at exit



#### **MAITHON POWER LIMITED**

M/s Evolve Technologies had installed Variable Orifices and Coal Flow Monitoring System in Mill D of Unit 2. Evolve Coal Flow Monitoring & Balancing tests were conducted between 23rd to 25th of September'2021. The system has effectively demonstrated it's capability to mesure coal mass flow and othercoal pipe parameters in each pipe dynamically and accurately. The data provided by system is almost correlating with DCS data and physical condition of coal piping. They have also been able to balance the coal mass flow in all the 4 PF pipes of Mill 2-D by manipulating their Variable Orifices, within 5% of the Mean Average Coal Flow. The diagnostic ability of the system is expected to enable in plant operations for improving combustion and controlling NOx emissions

#### **HINDUSTANPOWER**

#### HINDUSTAN POWER PROJECTS PRIVATE LTD

Certified that M/s. Evolve Technologies Had supplied ceramic variable Orifices in unit 1 & 2 of MB power, Annupur, via order No. #LITL/MB ATPP/MECH/PCP/PO/4960000899 in 2015. These orifices have crossed the 25,000 running hours & are still running successfully. Therefore wear & erosion resistance is satisfactory. Further, manipulation of variable orifices was smooth whenever it was required during mill operation to adjust the area of flow. Hence, overall performance of variable orifices is satisfactory after 25,000 running hours. Also, the quality of ceramic tile fixing of variable orifices is good.

## **CERTIFICATIONS**



#### **LANCO**



#### 5. CONCLUSION

BMW Dynamic Coal Flow and Coal particle Velocity Monitoring System was installed. Variable Orifices were already installed by LANCO Anpara at Unit-2. Velocity Balancing was carried out from 21<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023 to 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2023 in all mills (Mill-C followed by Mill-D, Mill-E, Mill-H, Mill-B and Mill-G) and following measurements were carried out:

- Coal Particle Velocity measurement in each pipe of all mills of Unit Maintained coal velocity within critical velocity within ±5%.
- Before balancing coal velocities were found to be as high as 35 m/s in some pipes. Post balancing all velocities were maintained in the range of 21-28 m/s.

Velocity Vs Mass Load as per ASTM G76 (IJERT ISSN: 2278-0181)



The plot clearly explains the mass loss which increases with respect to the velocity of particle and their relation is directly prepositions. For the purpose of calculation average reduction in velocity can be averaged from 30m/s before balancing to 25 m/s after balancing. That calculates to mass loss of coal conveying pipes and coal contact accessories to the tune of 17%.

This balancing of velocities will reduce the mass lcss per sec of coal pipe line and coal burner system equal to 17%. BMW envisage enormous cost savings to plant in ferms of reduced maintenance and replacement cost.

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BMW Steels Ltd

3. Coal Mass Flow measurement in all 5 pipes of each mill-Total 6 mills. Maintained coal mass flow within  $\pm 10\%$ .

BMW Microwave technology is dynamic system. Coal flow is two phase dynamic system. Dynamic measurement system has proved more accurate as compared to

BMW Dynamic Coal Flow Monitoring System has effectively demonstrated its capability to measure coal particle velocity and coal mass flow and coal particle temperature reliably.

The data provided by system is correlating with physical condition of coal piping and orifice manipulation while simultaneous measurements with Pitot tube have given significant error. This diagnostic ability of BMW system will help in plant operation, improving combustion and control NOx emissions, reduction of unburnt carbon in bottom ash and other operational parameters.

There has been an improvement of 19.27% by way of reduction of Carbon in ash resulting in benefit of Rs. 0.77 Lacs per day to plant

Average Coal Consumption per Day	8212	MT
Cost of Coal (Assumed)	₹3,000	PMT
Cost of Coal Consumed PerDay	₹ 2,46,36,000	
Daily Carbon in Ash	1.62	96
Daily Cost of Carbon in Ash	₹3,99,103	
Cumulative Saving of Carbon in Ash	19.26%	
Daily Cumulative Saving	₹ 76.867	

There has also been a significant improvement in APH Oxygen level difference between LHS and RHS which indicates improvement in combustion.

Inlet and Outlet Super Heater Temperature differences have also shown significant improvement.

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#### **Maithon**



Letter No: MPL/COMS/FY2021-22/25

Date:29/10/2021

#### To Whomsoever It May Concern

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The diagnostic ability of the system is expected to enable in plant operations for improving combustion and controlling NOx emission

With Best Regards,

For, Maithon Power Ltd

S H Pandey (Chief O&M, Services)



#### **DSPM**

CHHATTISGARII STATE POWER GENERATION COMPANY LIMITED (Chhattisgarh Government Undertaking) ( Chhattisgarh Government Undertaking)
(A Successor Company of CSEB)
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (Boiler)
Dr. SPM TPS, KORBA EAST, DISTT: KORBA, PIN: 495677 (C.G.)

No. 25-07/SE/BLR/DSPM TPS 3036

Korba Dtd 15/9/23

To, M/s. BMW Steels Navipur Road Hathras- 204101 E-mail kolkata@bmwsteels.com

Sub:- Performance report of "Variable orifices & coal flow monitoring system".

Ref.- 1. Tender No. - 03-03/TN-423/DP-529/21-22. 2. your E-mail dtd. 27.07.2023. 3. SAP Contract no. : 5500098527 dtd. 27.05.2022.

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Reduction in Unburnt Carbon in Fly Ash as compared to pre-balancing.

Reduction in NOx values of flue gases at exit.

### DVC Andal

BMW-MIC system has showed it's capability to measure the mass flows in each pipe dynamically & accurately. This diagnostic ability of this system will help in improving combustion and thus reduce unburnt carbon in ash and

(BMW Steels Ltd.)

Measurements Verified By:

Telep 03/04/2020 8DE(M) (DVC Andal)

Report Accepted By:

Clothy 08/04/2020 (DVC Andal) PA

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## EVOLVE TECHNOLOGIES

"We Promise to deliver low NOX and low CO Emission along with higher combustion efficiency."



**CONTACT DETAILS** 

Ph: +919639017070

Email: Sales@evolvetechnologies.co.in

**CORPORATE OFFICE** 

02 Balbir Road, Dalanwala, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, 248001