

POLYPLASTIC FINALLY ACQUIRES SIBGAZAPPARAT

Press Centre of POLYPLASTIC Group

Sibgazapparat (Tyumen), one of the largest pipes and fittings producers in Western Siberia, joined POLYPLASTIC Group in December 2012.

The plant was founded in 1993 by Gazprom to develop and implement European knowledge and mass-production processes for polyethylene pipes and fittings used in the construction of gas pipelines in Russia.

Sibgazapparat was the first plant in Russia to develop and produce fittings for polyethylene gas pipelines and tran-

sition pieces PE–steel. As a result of the high level of manufacturing engineering and proficiency demonstrated, the company was accredited by the Gosstandard of the Russian Federation (State Committee for Standardization and Metrology) in June 1997 and operated as a testing laboratory. Up until 2003 it had been the only plant in Russian Federation to produce long shank fittings, couplings and branch saddle connection. The plant produced goods solely for pipelines construction.

In-house experience in the production of pipes and fittings was the foundation for the development of new pipe and fitting designs. In 2000, the plant pioneered continuous production of fibre-reinforced polyethylene pipes. The design and technology was developed by Russian specialists including Mr. I.V. Gvozdev and Mr. V.T. Biserov, present employees of POLYPLASTIC Group.

Sibgazapparat was part of Zapsibgazprom and, after corporate restruc-



turing, the plant experienced problems with raw materials supply. Modernisation programmes were stopped. For most of 2012 Sibgazapparat continued to operate solely on tolling scheme sales orders from the POLYPLASTIC Group.

The plant accesses new development prospects by joining POLYPLASTIC Group. It plans to double production of polyethylene pipes to 10 thousand tonnes in 2013, and to 20–25 thousand tonnes in 2015. 600 mln rubles is being invested in modernisation and development projects to support a wider product range. Almost all POLYPLASTIC Group plants produce standard HDPE as well as hi-tech CORSYS pipes and PE manholes, therefore the production of PE manholes at Sibgazapparat will be introduced this year. The workforce will also be increased from 150 people to 350 within three years.

Vladimir Yakushev, Governor of the Tyumen Region, visited the plant in February. He stated that the plant operated inefficiently and showed negative trend, production output was reducing which subsequently led to job cuts. The future outcome was predictable without modernisation and investment. The Governor said: “We now have a responsible owner who invested into the plant, upgraded the equipment and plans to increase production output. All the necessary conditions have been provided, the investors are more confident and the company avoided bankruptcy”.

Vladimir Yakushev also supported a partnership proposal on problem resolution in housing and public utilities by saying: “Public utilities in the region will be interested in these products. It is time to switch from steel to polyethylene pipes as they are more cost-effective and their operational lifetime is greater”.

The acquisition of Sibgazapparat will help the POLYPLASTIC Group to optimise the supply chain for plastic pipes to Ural and Western Siberia markets.

