

# Out of Africa

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THREE FERTILIZER PLANTS IN EGYPT, THE MULTI-TRADE SKILLS OF XERVON INTERNATIONAL ARE IN DEMAND.

Egypt: Three locations, one scenario. Ain Sukhna on the Red Sea, Alexfert near Alexandria and Helwan, south of Cairo. Searing heat and the mundane mayhem of a large construction site. At all three of these locations, new fertilizer plants are currently being built. And playing an active part in each case is ThyssenKrupp Xervon. With a total of over 680 of its own employees, the service company with international operations is involved in these three projects in the land of the pharaohs and pyramids. And more specialist staff are waiting in the wings. The work on the Helwan project only started in December 2005 and will last until November 2006. For the most part, the projects in

Alexandria and Suez will have been completed on time by May 2006.

THOUSANDS OF SQUARE METERS OF QUALITY

There is a big demand for insulation and coating skills. And a lot of both, because on the three construction sites about 120,000 square meters of surface have to be insulated and about 140,000 square meters coated. High standards of quality in terms of workmanship and deadline compliance are also called for. Since fertilizer plants are technically advanced and complex chemical plants, their construction requires maximum care and attention to detail in all areas. This is where chemical substances react with each other and where complex production processes take place. Boilers, tanks, columns, vessels, pipelines and entire plant components – all of them have to be provided with the right insulation and surface

protection materials by the multi-trader's experienced insulators. The cold insulation of the ammonia tanks represents a special challenge in this context. Behind a specially fitted aluminum jacket, a two-component PU foam is being injected on site, and the insulation has to be 120 millimeters thick. Extreme care is of the essence, because the mixing ratio of the two components and the application temperature have to be spot on. Only then is the desired insulation effect achieved. A total of about 65 tonnes of PU foam will be applied in the three projects.

24/7: 120,000 square meters of insulation and 140,000 of coating required here in Egypt.

GOOD WORK MEANS SAFETY FOR THE PLANT'S WORKFORCE

The requirements in the insulation and coating sectors are largely identical in all three projects: It is a question of providing heat and cold insulation, protection from condensation, sound insulation and combinations of heat/sound insulation systems, as well as corrosion protection of the pipelines and plant. A large part of the surfaces in need of insulation and coating are being scaffolded to a high standard of safety for for the local

employees. Xervon International's team has been demonstrating its experience and skill in this sector since April 2005. For ultimately it is only the immaculate workmanship of the insulation specialists that will ensure trouble-free production and protect the environment and, above all, the workforce.

The client in Alexfert and Helwan is ThyssenKrupp Uhde. In Suez, Xervon International has been contracted by Orascom. These three contracts were of particular importance for the service provider. "Our goal has always been to establish our insulation

services internationally," explains Bodo Hoffmann, head of Xervon International. "After China and Malaysia, we have now clinched our first orders here in Egypt as well."

For the future, Hoffmann considers it an advantage that the company has been operating on the Egyptian market for several years now and, its own company, Xervon International Egypt SAE based in Cairo, is now the biggest international service company in Egypt with a workforce of what is already over 1,200.

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