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New centre for the assembly and testing of large machine sets commences operation

MAN Turbomaschinen AG is currently building a new centre for the assembly and testing of large machine sets at its Oberhausen site. Around nine million euros are being invested in the facility, which will become fully operational in the next few weeks. The pertinent infrastructure has been under construction since January of this year, and assembly of the first large machines and trains has been taking place in parallel with this: for example, a turbomachinery train for one of the world's largest PTA plants in India and two compressor installations for the biggest GTL facility in the world in Qatar. The compressor trains used here, each weighing 500 t, and the two steam turbines are the heaviest modules ever delivered by MAN TURBO and also the biggest that will then be in operation worldwide.

The development and production of single machines and complete machine units for primary industry is one of the main components of MAN TURBO's work in Oberhausen. The company is the global market leader in this field with its products. One essential prerequisite for securing orders in this market segment is having the capability to test these products under real conditions on a test stand prior to delivery. After all, compressors and drive turbines manufactured by MAN TURBO form the heart of complex production plants and their failure or reduced function has considerable economic consequences for the customer.

A change in market criteria has been emerging for some time now, however: the new production plants that are being designed are considerably larger. Consequently, the demand for much larger machines and machine sets is growing. MAN TURBO has prepared itself for this development of a "new generation" of machine sets in good time by building the new large machine centre.

If the philosophy previously was to assemble the machine and then transport it to the test stand, the enormous dimensions and weights of machines are now calling for a reversal of this sequence in the global production of tomorrow. It is much more cost-efficient to assemble and test machines and trains of these dimensions in situ.

An area in excess of 4400 m² offers ample space to be able to work smoothly on these machines of colossal proportions. If required, up to three trains can be assembled and tested in parallel with one another. A large part of the total amount invested is being spent on the necessary infrastructure, including e.g. media connections, the cooling water circuit with three cooling towers and cooling water pumps, a 36 m high stack, 20 MW electrical connection requiring over 1.6 km of power cables, steam supply and removal lines, the related instrumentation and control and the required crane capacity. Two cranes with a lifting capacity of 150 t and 180 t respectively and a height of over 15 metres guarantee the necessary flexibility.

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