

# Green light in Ukraine

By Bob Shekleton

It has been an eventful year for Green Gas in the Ukraine. The summer of 2009 saw our office in Donetsk open for business in the Akula Business Centre and the formation of the Ukrainian subsidiary, Green Gas Krasnodon.

The first major contract was signed on 16 December 2009 with 'Krasnodonugol', a coal mining subsidiary of the Ukrainian 'Metinvest' group of companies, for a project at the Sukhodilska Skhidna Mine, close to the eastern Ukrainian town of Krasnodon. This project involves a mine gas flare followed by electricity generation from three gas fueled generator sets, to produce 4.8 mega watts of electricity by the end of 2012.

The day of the signing was not without its challenges, not least because of the weather, with the heaviest snow storms on record falling on 16 and 17 December 2009. Roads, railways and airports were all closed due to the severity of the blizzards.

Detailed design of the first phase of the project started in earnest early in 2010, with the appointment of a local design institute who would take the design from the Krefeld engineering team, to align it with local regulations and standards, the 'Design Task'. This process took five months, with in excess of 500 pages having to be translated from German and English to Russian, before official approval of the Design Task was given mid-June 2010.

Construction started at the site on 2 July 2010. Three trucks finally left the Hofstetter Hindlebank manufacturing facility on 17 August 2010, heading for the Polish/Ukrainian border with the flare, control container and an assortment of pipes, valves, measuring devices and spares. Having passed border control successfully, they then made their way across country to the customs control point in Lugansk. Customs clearance took just three days, somewhat of a record for Ukraine, with our trucks finally arriving on site late in the afternoon of 27 August.

The construction team was well prepared and the Hofstetter convoy was met by Falko Harff and the local construction crew. Before darkness had descended all three trucks had been offloaded and their precious cargo stored ready for commencement of assembly and installation on 30 August.

Site preparation and foundations were already completed. The installation and commissioning has now been finished and the first gas was combusted on 16 November 2010. The GGI Donetsk team of Iain Goldsmith, Evgeny Alekseev, Elena Ostrovskaya and Oksana Kovalenko worked long days and nights and congratulations to them. Stefan Decker, the Plant Manager Yaroslav Okhremenko and Marc Beutler from Hofstetter did a great job in setting the plant to work. GGI has now appointed local consultants to assist with the design for the second phase of the project, which is scheduled to be online and producing the first CHP by June 2012, subject to local approvals.

A number of other projects in the Ukraine have been identified which are being vigorously pursued to build on the back of the KNU project.



Site preparation and foundations



Staff accommodation arrives



Completion!