EPC FOCUS
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SPECIAL FEATURE

AFRICA: THE EPC GROUPE IS LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE.

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the latest edition of EPC Focus.
We have received lots of ideas and articles for future issues thanks to the positive feedback that followed our first EPC Focus.
We also take this opportunity to present you our best wishes for 2013.

In this issue we showcase our latest developments in Africa, a continent that EPC has operated in for over fifty years, including our new subsidiary in the Ivory Coast.

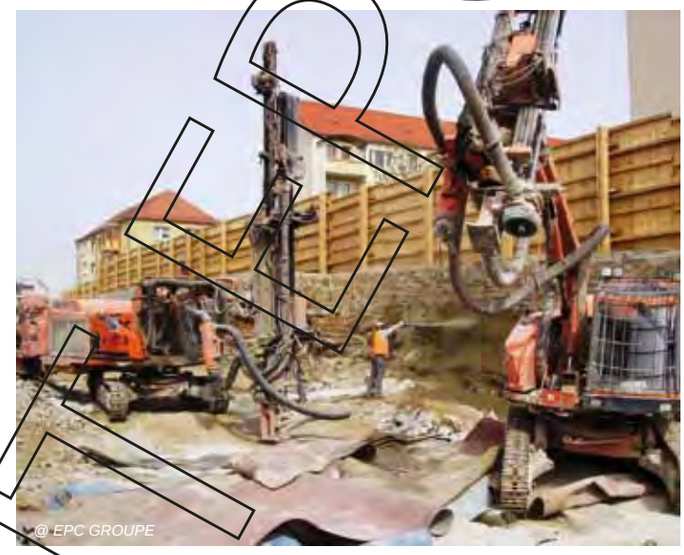
The EPC Groupe continues to pursue its aim of providing customers with integrated high-tech solutions.
You will find several examples of these, giving you more insight into our businesses, particularly from the numerous interviews conducted with the men and women who drive our Group forward.

The Editor Team

SUMMARY

CLOSE PROXIMITY BLASTING

EPC DEUTCHLAND won a difficult civil engineering contract at the end of 2010 which required the construction of an open tunnel near the foot of houses in Bautzen, in Eastern Germany.



Project details

Between early February 2011 and late July 2011, EPC DEUTSCHLAND executed 74 blasts to extract about 21.000 m³ of granite-type hard rock over several benches some as high as 2.5 meters. The blasts were executed in order to obtain blocks of a suitable dimension for the crushing machine.

More than 32,000 linear meters were drilled on the site, sometimes requiring 3 drill rigs to all operate at the same time. Detonating cord of 240 g/m and small-diameter dynamite cartridges were used. For ignition electric detonators from Davey-Bickford, France, were used.

Reinforced measures

In order to protect the residential area, EPC DEUTSCHLAND developed a specific methodology including:

- a control program with 8 measuring points for each blast
- a one-meter high cover of soil above the blasts
- additional blasts mats
- management and coordination between all those involved on the site

Optimum control

The work was carried out in difficult conditions, between houses and industrial buildings. The closest house was only about 6 meters away from the site. Maintaining the existing environment was a real challenge, a huge vibration-control program was deployed at about 8 measuring points for each blast. Risks of fly-rock were controlled thanks to one-meter high covers of soil and additional blast mats on the blasts. To control the risk of fly-rock additional soil cover and blast mast were used. Security of the area benefited from the perfect co-ordination between all parties involved: the contractor; the police; the local authority and EPC DEUTCHLAND. All work was a complete success with optimum control on the whole working environment. ■

By Rolf Landmann

A MAJOR UPGRADE REQUIRING SOPHISTICATED SAFETY MEASURES

Along the A50 motorway between Marseilles and Toulon, Alpharoc, an EPC Groupe subsidiary, has demonstrated leading-edge geotechnical expertise.

A large-scale project

The Société des Autoroutes Estrel (ESCOTA) instigated a project to upgrade the A50/A52 motorway junction at the Carnoux-en-Provence interchange on the French Riviera. For this huge project, which included the construction of a new carriageway, the project managers SETEC International and the VALERIAN/RAZEL-BEC/MALET consortium appointed Alpharoc to:

1. Install a rock fall protection system based on net fences
2. Reinforce the rock walls using rope access techniques
3. Carry out provisional soldier pile and pre-cast concrete panel type support works.

The entire contract, representing approximately EUR 1.2 million, excluding taxes, was scheduled to be completed between November 2011 and August 2012.

Location of the A50 section

Customised safety measures

The work undertaken by the consortium included the removal of material from rock walls that were more than 30 m high and overhung a motorway that continued to carry three lanes of traffic in both directions. The excavation of rock over a live motorway clearly presented a major safety problem for road users. Alpharoc designed a special rock fall capture net fence that could absorb up to 300 kJ with a maximum deflection of 1 m. This 220 m long, 6 m high net fence was installed along the motorway before excavation work commenced and then removed once the cutting had been completed and the rock walls reinforced. An average of 13 Alpharoc staff members had to work on site, supervised by a team of senior engineers and project managers.

Project key figures

Project total amount: 1.2 M€ excl. VAT

Net fence length: 220 m

Metallic mesh and netting: 10,000 m^2

Crane height: 100 m

Showcasing our skills

The net fence design is one example of how Alpharoc can count on its engineering team to come up with innovative solutions to complex geotechnical problems. Its technical expertise was also showcased by the specialist foundations team who produced the 350 mm diameter drill holes for the foundation bases for the net fence posts and by the difficult access specialists who installed and removed the net fence.

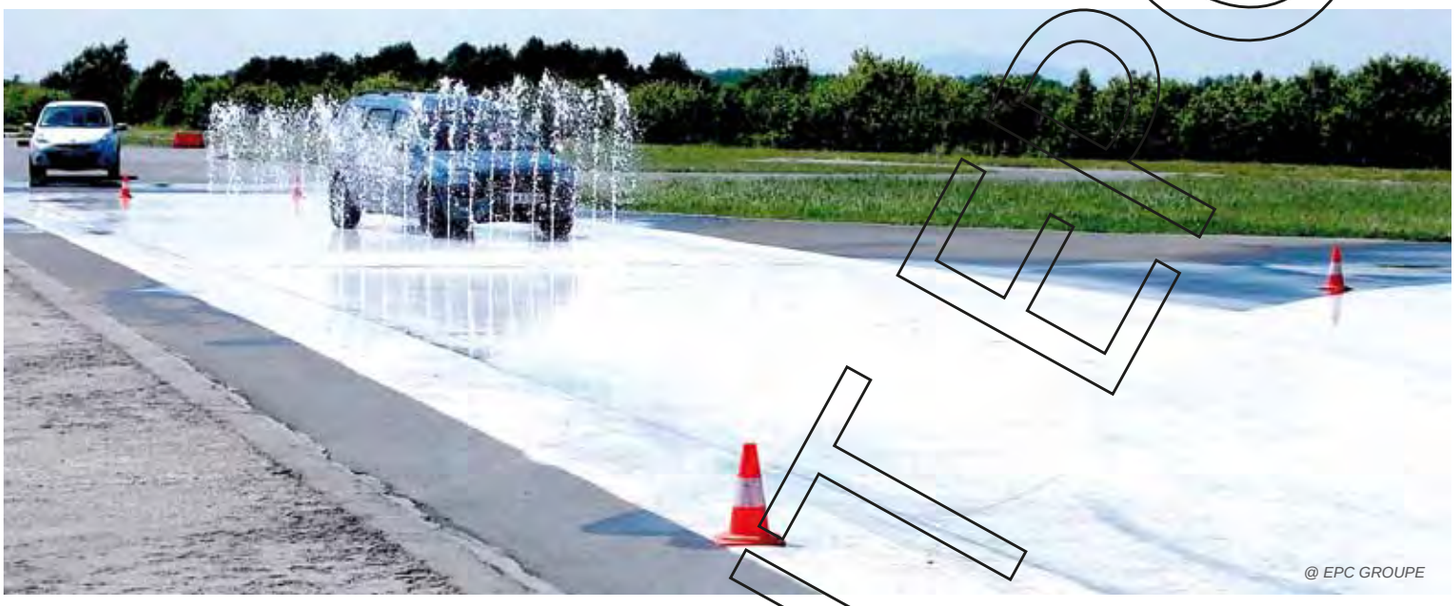
Once the earthworks had been completed reinforcement work was carried out by rope access specialists who installed more than 10 000m^2 of metallic mesh and netting on the rock walls. The most weathered areas were sprayed with 350m^3 of concrete. A 100 m crane was used to spray the concrete in the highest locations; a first for Alpharoc!

The efforts of the rope work teams and the impressive technical resources meant that the new carriageway was able to be put into service by September 2012. ■

By Fabien Gazado

Technicians are spraying fiber concrete in order to protect the more weathered areas. A 100 meter crane was used.

SAFETY: OUR COMMON OBJECTIVE



The Safety Days organised by EPC Groupe subsidiaries represent an opportunity to communicate key messages to staff in all our divisions and re-establish links between the various teams.

Becoming a benchmark

The EPC Groupe's Health, Safety and Environment Policy, as rolled out across all its subsidiaries, has a clear objective (included among the Group objectives set out in January): to become a benchmark for safety in all our activities and ensure the active participation of all employees. Each subsidiary was therefore asked to organise at some point during the year and in conjunction with their employees, a Safety Day. The purpose of this Day was to promote safety at work and good practice.
The theme chosen by the Group for 2012 was 'Driving Safety'. This is a major issue that is common to all our businesses and sites. The Group module, produced to increase risk awareness, includes a video with suitable aids containing the key messages to be communicated to all employees, with a particular emphasis on road accidents.

Safety Days held during the 1st quarter of 2012

620 participants

Participants' satisfaction level: more than 80 %

Sessions organised in 5 countries

Our subsidiaries: the organisers

The specific organisation of the Day, in particular, the way it is conducted and when, is decided by each subsidiary. The only requirement is that the theme chosen for the Group as a whole is followed. Driving Safety must be examined by each subsidiary and presented to all its employees during the course of the Day. Subsidiaries can also take advantage of this special event to increase awareness amongst their teams highlighting specific problems associated with their particular activities. Workshops, for example, could concentrate on practical issues and participants' local concerns on the ground, in order to ensure optimum impact.

The delivery method, especially with such serious matter, is just as important as the message

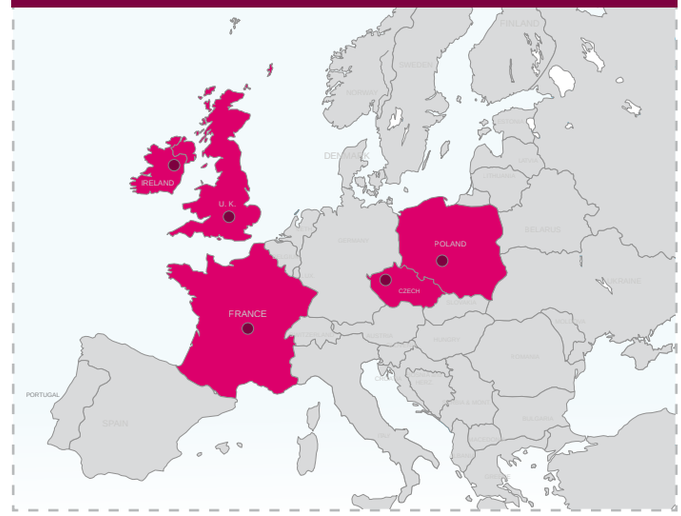
A jovial day, enjoyed by all should be the way the message is delivered to the employees. These days offer an opportunity to strengthen and even establish links between teams who sometimes have to work at different locations... Getting to know one another other is a way of achieving a shared responsibility and ensuring ever safer working.

Clearly understood messages

By implementing this procedure, the EPC Groupe's subsidiaries have demonstrated their capacity to create a friendly atmosphere while communicating the messages that are key to everyone's safety, and allowing each individual to make progress in this area. These Days appear to be a success: the satisfaction level amongst participants exceeds 80%. ■

By Thierry Rousse

Countries which organised the Safety Day during the 1st half of 2012



WATERGEL DEVELOPMENTS IN MOROCCO

Watergel explosives are recognised for their reliability, safety and performance. The EPC Group has been producing them since the 70's and they are now being manufactured on a new site by EPC MAROC; their prospects are excellent!

A balanced solution for optimum performance

Watergel explosives were originally developed as a replacement for dynamite. They have similar blasting power but the significant advantage of being safer to manufacture, handle, store and use. Their design is based on an intimate mixture of liquids and solids in suspension.

The full story

Watergel explosives have been made since the end of the 1970's in Morocco, originally chosen in order to be as close as possible to customers. EPC MAROC is now manufacturing them on a new site, so that any developments in explosive operations can be better monitored. For example, watergels are the explosive of choice among drilling-mining companies such as Marodyn, an EPC Groupe subsidiary, an innovator in the supply of original tools, blast patterns and non-electrical primers.
Watergel explosives are also highly valued in Moroccan underground mines, which consume more than half of EPC Maroc's annual production. The blasting power of watergels placed at the bottom of a column of explosives in open-cast mines and quarries ensures excellent priming of ammonium nitrate fuel oil (ANFO) ensuring optimum blast performance. EPC MAROC is able to exploit its excellent understanding of the market and its medium- and long-term prospects for the development of its range of watergels.

The market opportunities for SIGMA GELS

- Exploitation of thin seams
- African mines
- Oil prospecting

Well-positioned markets

EPC MAROC enjoys a privileged position between the Group's historic European markets and those of West Africa, where considerable mining activity is being developed. The Group's African subsidiaries can easily take advantage of the quality of our watergels. Further to the north, it will be easy to ensure the ad hoc supply of European markets, since Moroccan products are CE-marked thus giving access to most of Europe.

A complete range

EPC MAROC offers three types of 'SIGMA' watergels, each characterised by particular chemical composition offering a complete range of blasting power.
EPC MAROC's Technical Department makes all its expertise available to customers so that they can enjoy better value for money and make optimum use of the various products available, depending on the works to be carried out.
The range of cartridge sizes extends from 25 mm diameter in the case of small charges of 100-200 g, up to 90 mm, in the case of charges of more than 3 kg. EPC MAROC can produce cartridges of up to 25 kg on demand.
To better meet customers' needs, the gel manufacturing process can also be used to produce hollow charges of different shapes. ■ *By Laurent Peyrol*

REPORT: THE EPC GROUP IN AFRICA

Africa: The land of the future

With its mining reserves, infrastructure upgrading and plans for large-scale projects, Africa represents significant business potential for the EPC Groupe. Having now operated alongside local contractors on this continent for over 50 years, the EPC Groupe has become an undisputed player in this part of the globe.

EPC Group's position in Africa

Since it created its first distribution subsidiary in Cameroon in 1953, the EPC Groupe has continued to develop across Africa. It is now a major presence, recognised across the world in the explosives sector, but above all in West and Central Africa.

a > From distribution to full service

Specialising from the beginning in the distribution of packaged products and accessories in Africa, the EPC Groupe has always been a full-service company: on site manufacture, mining, full service on the basis of cubic metres removed, so that customers' expectations are met in the most appropriate way possible.
Activities are concentrated around 3 activity hubs:
- the manufacture of explosives and their use
- a drilling-mining service for mines, quarries and public works
- seismic prospecting

The Group also has: a packaged watergel manufacturing and electric detonator assembly factory in Morocco; several drilling-mining subsidiaries in Morocco, Senegal, Guinea-Conakry and Cameroon; and a new mine division responsible for the development of, and providing assistance to, the mining sector in West and Central Africa.

Key figures

550 staff in Africa and the Middle East, including 145 in Morocco
First site: Cameroon en 1953

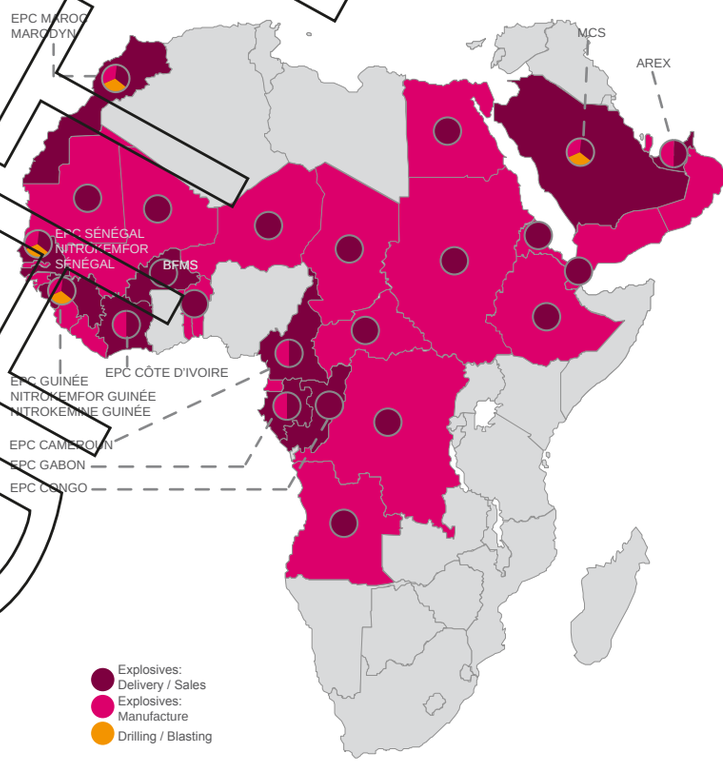
b > Integration of our distribution subsidiaries

The first links with local distribution subsidiaries, established more than half-a-century ago, have now been consolidated and strengthened. Emblems of our long-standing presence, these subsidiaries were fully integrated in the Group in 2010, and are based:
> in Senegal: EPC SENEGAL (formerly SENEGALEX)
> in Guinea-Conakry: EPC GUINEE (formerly Compagnie Guinéenne des Produits Chimiques)
> in Gabon: EPC GABON (formerly SOGABEX)
> in Cameroon: EPC CAMEROUN (formerly Société Camerounaise des Explosifs)
> in Congo: EPC CONGO (formerly Société Congolaise des Explosifs)

2012 saw the creation of a new subsidiary, EPC Côte d'Ivoire.
Our distribution subsidiaries are located around these historic anchorage points, most of which are located in the north, west and centre of the African continent and in the Middle-East, and offer distribution services in bordering countries.

c > Our added value

Our African subsidiaries have consistently demonstrated their technical skills and commitment to customer satisfaction. Our extensive experience enables us to continue to develop and means that we can offer a comprehensive service to our customers with a high degree of added value.
Our customers also know that they can rely on our storage facilities to meet the highest standards in terms of safety, logistic flow management (both for import and export) and the quality of the products we offer (emulsion, bulk emulsion, gels, ANFO, detonators, detonating fuses, etc.)
Training in the use of our products is provided either locally by our technical departments or by our training department in France. Such training programmes are very carefully adapted in line with customer requirements.



d > Skilled local workforce

In order to continue this development, the EPC Groupe employs and develops workers local to our sites. The quality of the local workforce is excellent and we do not need to look any further afield. Recruits are trained in our activities and techniques. Each one can gain the best qualifications so that our projects are carried out under optimum conditions. Our latest results are proof that we can be proud of our recruits who demonstrate undeniable professionalism and skill. These men and women are a real asset to the EPC Groupe and, in particular, to our African and Middle-East subsidiaries.

By Anthony Zberro

Customers who place their trust in us include:

Groupe VINCI Groupe BOUYGUES Arcelor Mittal SNIM Mauritanie Groupe VICAT Semafo AREVA Niger Rio Tinto CGG VERITAS Astaldi Compagnie des Bauxites de Guinée Sogea Satom Bellzone Somiag Alame China Railway CSE CGC Enco 5 BGP Henan Chine Setrag CBK

REPORT: THE EPC GROUP IN AFRICA

@ EPC GROUPE

NITROKEMINE in the largest bauxite mine in Africa.

Operated for almost 40 years by the Compagnie des Bauxites de Guinée (CBG), the Sangarédi mine is the largest bauxite mine in Africa in terms of production, as well as aluminium content and reserves.

a > From the ground to the refinery

Nitrokemine has been helping with the excavation of aluminium ore on behalf of CBG for 11 years, extracting almost 8 million cubic metres of bauxite each year. Nitrokemine is an integral part of CBG's operating chain. Its mining operations start with drilling and blasting, the ore is then excavated and sorted, assembled into stocks, readjusted for content with successive mixing, and then transported by rail to the ore port of Kamsar. The bauxite is then crushed and dried, before being loaded onto ships serving the aluminium refineries.

b > High-performing on a daily basis

Nitrokemine provides a comprehensive drilling-mining service which means they must always be available and quick to react. Although mining schedules are tight, they vary according to the results of the analyses conducted on ore samples taken at the drilling stage.
Nitrokemine also produces the necessary bulk explosives for mines in situ. Having to import raw materials and consumables is problematic; the geographical distances involved mean that its logistics and equipment maintenance have to be stand-alone operations.

Complementary operations

- Data processing
- Setting out of drill holes
- Sampling of drill debris
- Excavation
- Secondary breakage
  - *manufacture of explosives*
  - *logistics*
  - *administrative management*
  - *maintenance*

Sangaredi mine - Guinea-Conakry

Bauxite is a reddish aluminium-rich rock mainly used for the production of aluminium. Guinea Conakry's region is thought to contain more than half the world's bauxite reserves.

c > All types of professionals

A very wide range of professionals are active on site. Surveyors process the data and set out the drilling locations; drillers are then accompanied by samplers who remove the drilling debris. Once the miners have started the excavation process, a secondary breakage service may be provided if necessary.
All these operations are dependent upon drivers, operatives, mechanics and a large number of other specialist technicians, not forgetting administrative staff. More than a hundred complementary and skilled full-time employees are required in order to ensure that customers' objectives are met.

d > Acting and protecting

High-performance should not mean that safety is neglected; it has been a major concern in the Sangaredi mine for many years. Awareness, vigilance and communication are permanent features. All teams are deeply committed to an effective safety culture. ■

By Vincent AUSTIN

THE AFTERLIFE OF WASTE WITH 2B RECYCLAGE

Nothing is lost, nothing is created, everything is transformed.

Frédéric SANSONE describes his work:
Based in Noyant la Gravoyère, France, our 2B Recyclage sorting centre offers the hope of an afterlife to concrete waste resulting from the demolition of buildings; considerable volumes of waste no longer need to be buried. Transformed waste will be subsequently used in the form of chips (granular materials) for road beds, base courses in foundations, as backfill for pipes, etc. One hundred and fifty thousand tonnes are processed each year either by mobile crushing units which travel to sites or on a fixed platform in Nantes, France.

"2B Recyclage processes 150,000 tonnes of concrete waste each year."

We are also involved in the processing of plaster, redirecting the waste to manufacturing plants. This is re-used in production thereby eliminating the need for additional natural reserves of gypsum to be mined. Fifteen hundred tonnes of wood are also recycled, which is then used as fuel in industrial boiler houses and as a raw material in the transformation industry. Finally, we are extending our field of activity to the management of asbestos waste and contaminated soil. ■

By Frédéric SANSONE

EPC BELGIQUE: THREE TYPES OF WASTEWATER, THREE PROCESSES

Domestic wastewater

Coming from companies' sanitary facilities and from cleaning of offices, domestic wastewater goes through a septic tank before being discharged into a ditch connected to a drainage well.
An individual sanitary wastewater drainage unit was implemented in 2008. It comprises:
- Degreaser
- Settling tank
- Aerobic purification unit
- Bacterial filter

Industrial wastewater

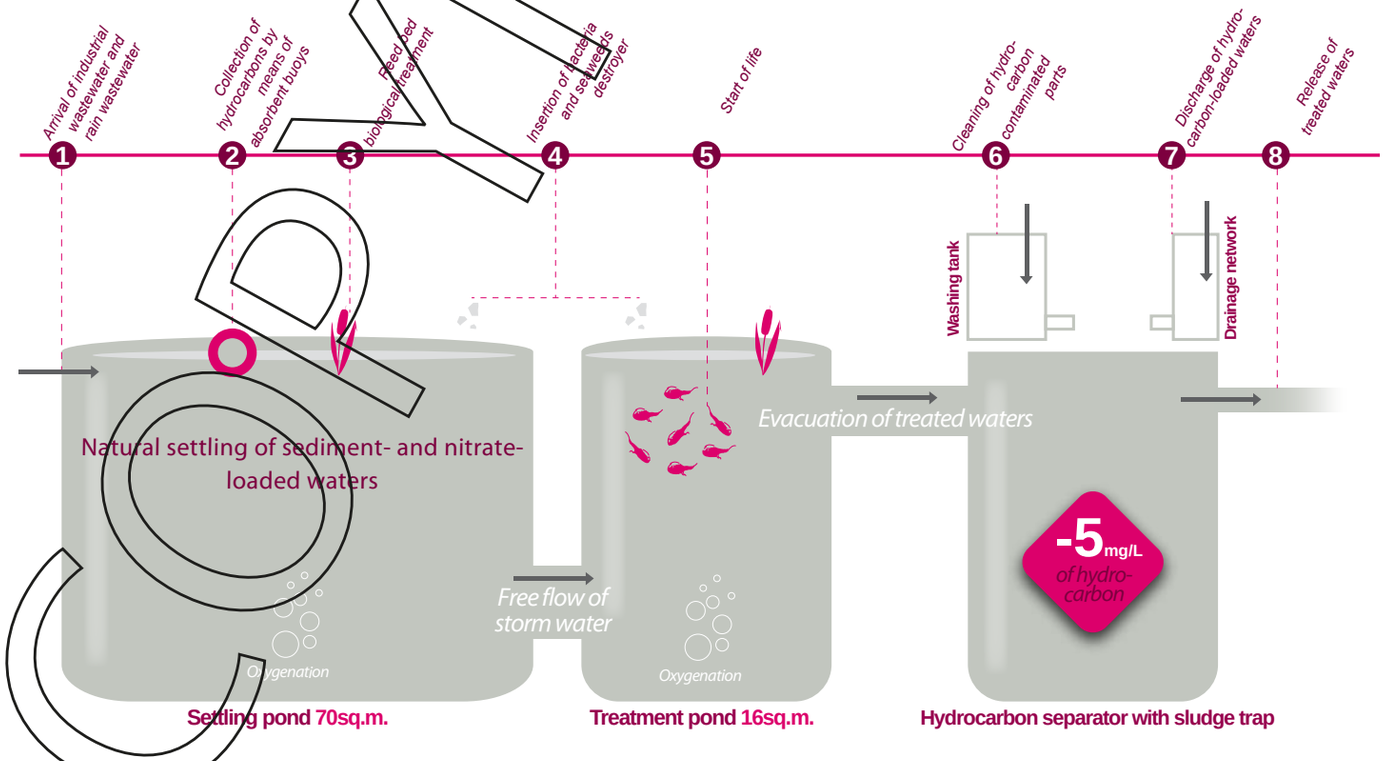
Industrial wastewater is water coming from the regular wash of vehicles. These waters are collected into one of two retention ponds before they flow towards the water treatment plant where settling and hydrocarbons separation take place. 1

Rain wastewater

Rain wastewater is made up of waters:
- flowing off roofs of warehouses and offices buildings,
- streaming on the site.

They naturally flow towards the lowest point to reach either retention ponds or water tanks. These waters may be contaminated by hydrocarbons.
A waterproof slab was set up on the fuel supply area for vehicles and near both tanks, in order to channel flowing waters by means of gutters towards a scrubber / hydrocarbon separator. 6 ■

By David Jacquet



THE AIMS OF EPC'S DEMOLITION DIVISION

The demolition division is involved in demolition, asbestos removal, and the processing of waste produced by civil engineering projects. The strategy and the measures it deploys are aimed at increasing the cohesiveness of the companies in the division so that an even more effective solution may be provided.

Combining experience

This division brings together 5 companies which all have a combined experience of over 40 years: ATD, Prodemo, Occamat, Occamiante and 2B Recyclage. At the helm since 2011, Claude Chené, Business Director, Olivier Nicole, Operations Director who both work closely on company's development. Claude is taking advantage of his experience at Occamat, Occamiante and 2B Recyclage to structure the various entities and bring them together around a single industrial focus.

DEMOLITION DIVISION

3 *areas of activity* — 5 companies

Turnover: EUR 62 *million* — 335 people

Safety and synergy

"Safety is a key goal", says Claude Chené. A Quality, Safety and Environment management team and a team of dedicated organisers provide assistance to each subsidiary on a daily basis.

Every effort is made to ensure that the 5 structures operate as a true homogeneous organisation, while retaining their identities. This affects each aspect of the business: human resources, accounts, equipment, operations, logistics, the commercial department, investments, etc. Every team follows a common shared strategy which also includes a search for synergy and a mutual exchange of resources.

A high-tech division

In the longer term the aim is to make EPC's Demolition a high-tech division "by offering customers a comprehensive and safe solution", says the Business Director. In strategic terms, this means proving and embedding the division's expertise in combination with competent skill and qualification levels in all areas: asbestos removal, demolition, waste management and contamination.

Specific directions

To meet these objectives, Claude Chené is rolling out changes in the specialist areas of activity: "We want to offer a complete solution, one which includes upstream decontamination, i.e. asbestos and lead removal, disassembly and downstream decontamination, by developing soil treatment and waste upgrading. We are ensuring that innovative demolition techniques, such as hydro-demolition, are incorporated in our spec".

By combining a complimentary package of quality and high-technology, we are positioning ourselves as true demolition experts. ■

By Claude Chéné

@ EPC GROUPE

Currently, four companies from the demolition division are working together on a high-level site, in Bordeaux town center. Constraints are important, the work site is complex.

We will give you more details about this work site in our next issue.

@ EPC GROUPE

NEW CONTRACT IN GUINEA-CONAKRY

Demonstrating the Group's commitment to the African Continent, EPC Guinée signed a contract in January 2012 with FGMSA (Forecariah Guinea Mining SA).

Key dates

January 2012 *signing of the contract*
22nd March 2012 *first mine blast*
2013 4 million tonnes of ore to be extracted each year

Ready for iron

The agreement covers a complete mining, explosive and blasting supply service for the Forécariah iron mine near the border between Guinea-Conakry and Sierra-Leone. The first phase of the contract is expected to represent a cumulative turnover of 12 million US Dollars.
EPC Guinée decided to make the following new investments for this contract:
• construction of a work base and a depot on site
• acquisition of a dedicated UMFE (Mobile Explosive Manufacturing Unit).

Excellent prospects

With 4 million tonnes of ore expected to be extracted each year from 2013 onwards, production started on 22nd March with a blast conducted in the presence of local politicians, military VIPs and the media.
Estimates indicate that there are 40 million tonnes of reserves. Current investigations indicate that this figure could be higher.
EPC Guinée's adventure into iron is therefore only just beginning. ■

By Jean-Jacques Koua

THE TRAINING CENTRE IN FRANCE CAN BE PROUD OF ITS 35 YEARS OF EXISTENCE!

With more than 35 years of training experience in mining techniques for trade professionals, EPC France's Training Centre is a recognised player in vocational training in the field of explosives.

Key figures

140 *training sessions*
More than 1,000 *trainees trained in 2011*
Completion rate for state exams: 95%

Recognised both in the field and officially

EPC FRANCE's Training Centre offers regulation-compliant training such as Blasting Certificate, a diploma approved by the French Ministry of Education, and trainings specific to quarry, surface mining and underground mining.
The aim is to share our experience and unique expertise with administrations and professionals in our trades. Programmes address the latest techniques developed in-house, and are supported by practical exercises on site. Security and performance are at the heart of the training.
Our trainers are technicians and field engineers. Thanks to operating experience, each trainee receives the most updated and in-depth teaching know-how so that they gain all round benefit from their training.

Skills for exports

The reputation and the quality of its training has reached beyond its borders. For the past few years, EPC FRANCE has been receiving more and more enquiries for courses outside mainland France and abroad.
In partnership with the Training Centre for Mining Techniques in Noumea (New-Caledonia), a full training exercise was organised in 2012 in Nakutakoin quarry and given to 70 people across three weeks: blaster certificate, complementary options for the blasting certificate, mining operations control…
At the request of SOGEA SATOM, an audit and training mission took place in Cibitoké (Burundi).
Other courses are planned for subsidiaries of the EPC MAROC Group and MODERN CHEMICAL SERVICES in Saudi Arabia. ■

By Jean Louis Samiez

@ EPC GROUPE

A MAN IN THE FIELD WHO BELIEVES IN THE MINING INDUSTRY

Olivier Vandenabelle joined EPC BELGIQUE in 1987. He created DGOM3, the first drilling and mining subsidiary of the group in the Belgian territory in 1992 with two of his colleagues. He has been Africa/Middle East Manager since 2009.

"I work with people of a great value, whose support is essential."

What is your work about?

My role is to help and direct the subsidiary managers. I back them up, I advise them, I give them direction on all aspect of the business, be it technical, commercial or administrative.
I acquired my skills in the field, working through all stages and being passionate about blasting and the techniques used. My interest led me to join the R&D working group on drilling/mining and explosives. I hope my experience and knowledge will serve me well in this position.

The short-and medium-term objectives?

With African subsidiaries, we want to consolidate our positions on this continent and in particular offer a service suited to clients in the growing mining industry. We wish to champion the high standards of quality and know-how of our teams. The evolution of the mining markets encourages us to push forward the development of tailor-made solution for our clients. In recent times safety has been our priority in terms of setting our objectives and measuring our performance, to allow our staff to work under the best conditions and to ensure the best quality of work for our clients. This is our priority.

Anything to add?

My job is my passion. I like what I do and I strongly believe in it. I work with professional people, whose support is essential to the success of our objectives.
Africa is full of potential. We have the capacity required to develop ourselves and increase EPC Groupe's influence, thanks to the incredible expertise of our team. ■

By Olivier Vandenabelle

@ EPC GROUPE

@ EPC GROUPE

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES ARE A SOURCE OF PROGRESS

EPC Groupe develops new processes and equipment in-house, particularly in the field of information technologies, one of the main areas of innovation over recent decades.

Essential data

Information technologies allow both engineering and commercial administration to develop. Their development improves safety, reliability and quality in production processes. Information can be captured and stored for review and analysis to optimise the operational efficiency. But obstacles existed within the Group: outsourcing of information systems was expensive and time consuming as the existence of several and often incompatible systems made any change very expensive.
Aware of these difficulties, EPC INNOVATION decided to develop its own specialist in-house technology. Two young electrical control engineers have been recruited to develop and support this initiative.

A group-specific system

EPC INNOVATION is establishing the foundations of a universal control system which may be used on various applications across the whole group. It aims to use common hardware components (PLC and HMI) and common programming software. Using the same language and programming style allows a standard control system style to be used. From operators to maintenance and technical users, the group's staff will benefit from this evolution; indeed they will find the same underlying working principles in each control system designed by EPC-I. As long as they have used any EPC-I application once, users will be familiarised with them all. Taking ownership of control systems and processes will help deliver improved safety, performance and quality.

@ EPC GROUPE

Simplicity and reliability

The same intuitive style will be found in each system. Engineers aim to design products which share a common interface (style, touch, layout) and common parts. Moreover, output data should also be presented with a common 'language' (graphs, spreadsheets...). A universal system also offers another advantage: it allows design of more efficient and reliable applications as the knowledge and experience gained for one application will be used to design future applications.

Early developments

The system can be used on plant or on bulk trucks, improving safety, control, quality and information.
The first control panel has been produced for bulk trucks and includes a variable density option.
The first control panel for plant has been produced for EPC's self contained modular bulk production plant, capable of rapid deployment and operation. ■

By Jim Eaton

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EPC GROUPE

2B Recyclage is showing their colours thanks to gym

2B Recyclage, a company specialising in waste reclamation in the French region of Pays de Loire, is sponsoring young and promising athletes of LA NANTAISE gym team.

The whole meaning of this partnership was revealed during the French championship Elite in the Palais des Sports de Beaulieu in Nantes, on 8th and 9th June this year. This important event covered by the media allowed some gymnasts to secure their participation to the London Olympics. 2B Recyclage's support was noticed during the competition as 200 volunteers were wearing a T-shirt with the company's colours.
This sports sponsorship allows both entities to stress their common values, based on technical rigor, know-how and passion. ■

By Claude Chene

ATD celebrates 40 years

With many years of experience behind it, ATD is making the changes necessary to deal with the market over the next 40 years.

During the post second world war years HIVET was engaged in lifting, earthworks and demolition projects. In 1972, its activities were split up, resulting on 27th April in the creation of ATD, Auxiliaire de Terrassement de Démolition [Demolition and Earthworks Support]. Over the years ATD has established itself as a leader in specialist demolition projects for industrial companies (e.g. EDF, Lafarge, Total), as well as the demolition of buildings and industrial chimneys requiring the use of explosives. Earthworks activity gradually came to a halt. The asbestos removal activity has grown considerably since 1996, so that complete asbestos removal/demolition services can now be offered. Located in the Rouen Basin, ATD operates throughout the Seine Valley, in the Parisian region, and on its clients' industrial sites across France. In 2003 ATD re-joined the EPC Groupe and became a key player in its demolition division in 2010. Awarded higher certifications for asbestos removal and demolition, ATD is certified for industrial work (MASE), to ISO 9001, and currently applying for certification to 14001. 2013 will mark a turning point in the management of asbestos removal, with the fitting out of a room solely used for maintaining asbestos removal equipment and a commitment to obtaining radiological dismantling certifications. ■

By Benoit Lanfry

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EPC GROUPE

A new headquarters for EPC FRANCE

On 18th April 2012, Olivier OBST, EPC Group General Manager, Pascal Lacourie, EPC FRANCE General Manager and their colleagues inaugurated EPC FRANCE's new headquarters in Saint Martin de Crau in the presence of representatives from Local Authorities, the Administration and the Territorial Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Arles.
Several EPC Groupe's businesses are gathered on this historical industrial site:

- EPC FRANCE's plant specialises in cartridge emulsions explosives and all associated services,
- EPC INNOVATION, the Group's Innovation and Development centre,
- A logistics hub in the heart of the Mediterranean basin which uses sea routes mainly towards Africa, rivers and roads towards France and Europe.

This reorganisation reinforces synergies between the teams. It creates a real cluster of skills, where numerous technical and logistics evolutions will enhance the development of both EPC FRANCE and the EPC Groupe as a whole. ■

By Pascal Lacourie & Sylvie Lambert

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