Customer magazine

up²date

THERE’S NO BETTER WAY! ACHIEVING ENERGY, COST & CO₂ SAVINGS WITH OPTIMISED INDUSTRIAL INSULATION

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BY THE WAY ...

There’s no doubt about it, life is not only moving at an ever faster rate, it is becoming increasingly digital. Two very good reasons, therefore, for BUCHEN and XERVON to revamp their up²date magazine. From now on, our customer magazine will be published more often. Which means, of course, that you get to hear about our interesting projects, latest news and pioneering innovations even more quickly.

At the same time, up²date will be focusing more on digital elements as this format enables us to provide you with a wider range of information and a more detailed insight into our projects. To view the online content, simply scan the QR code under the relevant article. This is a quick and simple way to access the additional digital content, which offers further information about the topic. Depending on the article, this may include images, graphs, additional text or videos to name just a few.

All in all, the new up²date concept is more topical, more interesting, more dynamic and more informative. Just the right combination for today’s world where information is becoming ever more important and – increasingly – having an impact on a company’s success.

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More info online

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UP²DATE |

LATEST NEWS

OFFSHORE WORK IN THE ARCTIC OCEAN

IN ROUGH SEAS

BUCHEN recently carried out a project for the Russian firm Gazprom that involved cleaning a number of storage tanks on the Prirazlomnoye oil rig, the world’s only offshore project producing oil in the Arctic Ocean.

The Prirazlomnoye platform is located in the far north – in the Pechora Sea on the Arctic Shelf. Here, in the northwest of Russia, the sea is covered in ice for seven months of the year. It goes without saying that a very special kind of rig is needed to drill oil in this environment as it has to cope with two-metre-high ice ridges, temperatures falling to minus 40°C and waves reaching ten metres high. Developed specifically for the Arctic Ocean, Prirazlomnoye is able to withstand both extreme weather conditions and maximum ice loads. This platform, which enables oil to be extracted in such a harsh environment, is one of a kind.

A number of storage tanks on Prirazlomnoye had to be cleaned in both 2017 and 2018 – a case for the BUCHEN specialists. Working on behalf of their client, Gazprom Neft Shelf, they cleaned three offshore tanks used for storing drilling fluid, drilling mud and brine and able to hold up to 490m³.

Working in extreme conditions

BUCHEN often find themselves working in difficult conditions when they are called out to clean their customers’ tanks and containers. Few environments, however, have been as challenging as the one they experienced just recently – an oil rig in the Arctic Ocean.
The first step involved the team removing any deposits from the tanks. Once this had been completed, they then set about cleaning the inside walls with high pressure water jets. There were two main reasons why BUCHEN had been commissioned to carry out the work: its experience (having completed similar projects for companies operating in the Russian energy sector) and its ability to pump out sediment from tanks up to 30 metres deep.

**Working in the tightest of spaces**

Offshore rigs are certainly considered to be the most difficult of all working environments when it comes to producing oil – especially when they are in the Arctic. Cleaning tanks on an oil rig is also a huge challenge. Well aware of this, BUCHEN had to first meticulously plan the project before it could send in its team. Despite Prirazlomnaye being a very large platform, there is in fact very little room available. From a practical point of view, this not only meant that the work had to be performed in confined surroundings but also that there was only limited space available for positioning and storing the technical equipment. This equipment was supplied by BUCHEN’s Russian branch in Ufa and transported by ship to the rig where it was stored in stackable containers.

**Special offshore qualifications**

BUCHEN initially sent in a team of twelve and later 18 operatives to carry out the work. Flown in by helicopter, the BUCHEN employees stayed in the platform’s residential module throughout the project. All of the team members had special maritime skills as well as their professional qualifications. Each and every one of them had taken part in a special offshore course beforehand that focused on safety at sea and involved both theoretical and hands-on training. Having completed the course and been presented with the relevant certificate, these BUCHEN employees can now be deployed to offshore projects all around the world. Thanks to these qualifications and the work they performed on the Prirazlomnaye platform, they have a level of expertise that is hard to match.
ENERGY EFFICIENCY

EVEN MORE IS POSSIBLE

Cutting costs, curbing climate change: industrial businesses have put the subject of energy efficiency at the very top of their agenda. And they have already used a whole number of ways and means to achieve this. So have all possible options been exhausted? Not yet. Industrial insulation can play an important role here.

Modernised buildings, energy-saving production processes, low-energy machinery: industrial companies have done a lot to reduce their energy consumption. And yet there are still areas of their business where huge savings could still be made – particularly when it comes to the thermal insulation used in their plants as, in many cases, this hasn’t been replaced for decades.

Cost savings of 90%
Being an industrial insulation specialist, XERVON is able to deliver highly effective solutions to minimise heat loss – both for normal and high temperature environments. Indeed, XERVON is able to cut the costs caused by heat loss by more than 90% when it is called in to renovate insulation systems that had originally been installed without energy efficiency in mind.

Saving potentials across all industries
Experience has shown that there are energy savings potentials in all industrial sectors, no matter what type of plant or what process temperatures they use. It is becoming increasingly important for these companies to exploit this potential and minimise their industrial heat loss – not only because of the rising energy prices but also because of their duty to make their business more sustainable. This aside, effective insulation systems offer many other advantages as well, such as higher levels of efficiency, more stable processes and safer operations. Companies that choose to optimise their insulation systems, therefore, benefit in a variety of ways: cutting costs, improving their operational activities and promoting sustainable and responsible business practices.

XERVON delivers its industrial insulation solutions to customers from a wide range of industries, including the chemical, petrochemical, steel, construction and energy sectors.

XERVON can cut the costs caused by heat loss by more than 90%

XERVON’s range of services covers everything needed for thermal and cold insulation – from energy audits, to advice and engineering work, to installing the material.

The huge cost savings achieved by installing new insulation mean the investment costs are recouped within a very short time, often within just a few months. See an example online.
The company is also able to carry out highly unusual insulation projects. For example, removing old insulation material containing asbestos from pipes – that make up part of a pipe bridge and reach temperatures of 350°C – and then re-insulating them immediately. A XERVON and BUCHEN project.

172,200,000 MWh of energy can be saved each year by optimising the insulation systems used at industrial plants.

49 megatonnes CO₂ can be avoided by improving industrial insulation – the same volume of emissions generated by eight million cars.

Using a quadcopter to search for heat loss
XERVON is now also using drones equipped with heat imaging cameras to detect heat loss. A great way to inspect areas that are particularly hard to access.

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Savings potentials in black & white
Improving heat insulation in plants – what exactly does this achieve? An energy audit carried out in line with the TIPCHECK standard can provide concrete answers to this question. Specially trained XERVON engineers carry out such audits to detect exactly where heat is being lost and then draw up a suggested plan of action that can be implemented immediately. This plan also includes precise details about the energy, cost and CO₂ savings that can be achieved. The exact investment costs are calculated as is the individual return on investment. These facts and figures provide a reliable basis for industrial businesses to make a decision: around 75% of all companies that have had such an audit carried out at their business have already implemented the recommended changes or plan to do so in the near future.

More info online
TIPCHECK was developed by the European Industrial Insulation Foundation (EiiF) and corresponds with the energy audit standards EN 16247 and ISO 50002.

EXTREME CASES
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XERVON places great importance on having a workforce of competent, well trained employees. And this is something they would appear to be very good at. The best industrial insulation specialists from nine different countries travelled to the 2018 European Insulation Championships in May. Among them was David Jelusic, who had done his apprenticeship at XERVON.

The event was hosted by the Fédération Européenne des Syndicats d'Entreprises d’Isolation (FESI), which had set very high technical standards for those taking part. Only the winners of their respective national competitions were allowed to participate in these European Championships. The current German champion, David Jelusic, was awarded 2nd place making it onto the international winners’ podium as well. Certainly a sign of just how good the apprenticeship at XERVON is!

Not every logo lasts forever. Companies wishing to develop and grow their business often decide to transform their brand as well. Which is just what Air Liquide has done, the global leader in gases, technologies and services for industry and health. XERVON Oberflächenotechnik was commissioned with the task of replacing the huge company logos attached to its tanks in Germany and Austria – as well as cleaning and renovating the surface of the tanks at the same time.

Roadside checks on dangerous goods vehicles

As the volume of freight being transported on our roads increases so, too, is the number of vehicles carrying dangerous substances. In many cases, freight forwarders fail to implement all the safety measures required. To counteract this development, police forces from across all the German states decided to work together and carry out roadside checks on vehicles transporting dangerous substances. And they made the most of BUCHEN’s expertise of hazardous goods here – for example for the checks carried out on the A5 motorway, which were supported by BUCHEN employees from the company’s south division. Their job: to assess the lorries to see whether the rules and regulations on transporting dangerous goods were being met.

The results of this concerted campaign:
Just three of the 34 lorries checked fulfilled all the rules and regulations. Seven vehicles, i.e. every one in five of the goods vehicles stopped, were in such a poor condition or violated the rules to such an extent that they were not permitted to continue their journey.
Around 100 new apprentices joined BUCHEN, XERVON and REMONDIS Maintenance & Services this summer – the highest intake ever. The apprentices were able to choose from 13 different apprenticeship courses and will now learn all they need to know for their future professions. No matter what the course, their career prospects are excellent as the company guarantees to take them on if they successfully pass their final exams.

XERVON’s scaffolding specialists have once again received an award in recognition of their excellent safety standards: the company was presented with BP’s “Believe in Zero” Award for its activities at BP’s refinery in Gelsenkirchen. This is not the first award that BUCHEN and XERVON have received for their stringent work standards and is yet more proof of the high quality of the companies’ own QHSE initiatives.

Scaffolding of the Year

XERVON Polska has been presented with the ‘Scaffolding of the Year’ award for the scaffold the company had erected for a shopping centre in Warsaw – a structure that combined both suspended and shoring scaffolding.

3,100m²

was the size of the weatherproof structure erected to enable catalyst to be replaced at a chemicals park in Marl this spring.

This special structure, which was made of tarpaulin and composite panels, was kept warm using a hot air fan heater so that the work could be carried out despite the outside temperature dropping to minus 10°C.

Every successful journey starts with one small step: in 1958, six carpenters made their way to Brandenburg to erect the scaffolding needed to build the brown coal processing plant, Schwarze Pumpe. 60 years on, this group is now the East Region of the specialist scaffolding company XERVON with branches in Eisenhüttenstadt, Leipzig, Böhlen, Spremberg and Schwedt – with all of them offering top quality services to the process industry and construction sector.

XERVON celebrates 60 years of scaffolding in its East Region

More info online
Keep up²-date any time any place

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Take a look now by going to up2date-online.de/en

Also available as an online magazine – with additional content!