

GAZ-SYSTEM S.A. has executed the longest in Poland horizontal directional drilling (HDD) under the Vistula River

In relation to the construction of a high-pressure pipeline between Rembelszczyna and Gustorzyn, on the 29-30th of January 2013, the company GAZ-SYSTEM S.A. has carried out final works related to drilling of a horizontal directional drilling (HDD), 1339 m long, under the Vistula River. This is one of the longest and in engineering terms most complicated passes using the HDD method in Poland.

During the construction of the gas pipeline between Rembelszczyna and Gustorzyn, 700 mm in diameter and 176 km long, 19 such drillings were altogether planned in the area of Mazowieckie and Kujawsko-Pomorskie voivodships inter alia under roads, railway tracks, rivers, canals and water reservoirs, in total around 8300 m long.

The execution of HDD drilling under the Vistula River was started already in September 2012 and was divided into three stages, using for that the top quality equipment.

So-called pilot drilling was made in phase one. This stage was aimed at drilling under the obstacle, using the drilling equipment in accordance with the previously planned drilling axis. Experienced navigation system operators, in cooperation with boring rigs operators, determined the pilot drilling exit with the accuracy of dozen or so centimetres.

After performance of the pilot drilling (reaching the drilling end point), the drilling equipment was dismantled and replaced with equipment for the drilling diameter expansion. The drilling was performed at a depth exceeding 42 m, in varying geological conditions.

Expansion of the drilling under the Vistula River was carried out in two passes. A roller type equipment, 500 mm in diameter, was used in the first pass, while in the second pass the drilling expansion was carried out in a system of four tools.

Finally, the prepared accessories, including the pipe, were pulled through the drilling on the 30th of January 2013, completing the work.

“On the route of Rembelszczyna-Gustorzyn gas pipeline construction, in especially difficult geological conditions, we have executed one of the longest river passes of such type in Europe, using the HDD method. After 30 hours our team in cooperation with an experienced contractor has successfully completed this complicated project.

We have passed a very important stage of high-pressure pipeline construction, which ultimately will allow transmission of increased gas volumes to the northern-eastern and central Poland” – summarises Mr Henryk Oracz, the GAZ-SYSTEM S.A. Project Manager.

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GAZ-SYSTEM is a strategic company for the Polish economy. It is responsible for the transmission of natural gas, manages the most important gas pipelines in Poland and owns the President Lech Kaczyński LNG Terminal in winouj cie.

As part of the 2015-2025 investment programme, GAZ-SYSTEM is constructing over 2000 km of new gas pipelines in the western, southern and eastern parts of Poland. Over a dozen new gas pipelines are under construction within the North-South Gas Corridor and the compressor station in K dzierzyn Ko le, as well as interconnections with Lithuania and Slovakia. Onshore gas pipelines are planned to connect the planned FSRU floating terminal in the Gulf of Gdansk with the national transmission system. The LNG Terminal in winouj cie is also being extended, as a result of which the regasification capacity of this facility will be increased by more than a half.

The company is also implementing one of the most important infrastructural projects in the country - the Baltic Pipe project which consists in the construction of a two-way offshore gas pipeline connecting Poland and Denmark, expansion of the local transmission network and three gas compressor stations.

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