

The borehole researches related to the „Damaśławek” gas warehouse have just been kicked off

On August 10, 2017, the opening ceremony relating to drilling of the first reconnaissance boreholes was carried out in Wińtkowo (the commune of Janowiec Wielkopolski, Kujawsko-Pomorskie Province). These drill holes will enable to determine whether the salt dome of „Damaśławek” can be provided for a cavity underground gas warehouse, planned to be constructed by GAZ-SYSTEM.

The ceremony was participated by the representative of the government officials, local authorities, GAZ-SYSTEM and G-Drilling S.A. – the research provider.

When greeting the guests, **Artur Zawartko, Vice-President of the Management Board, GAZ-SYSTEM**, highlighted how essential the gas warehouses are when it comes to the transmission system: *„They provide reliability and continuity of natural gas deliveries. The underground warehouse of natural gas we are planning to build, being the first one in possession of GAZ-SYSTEM, will allow us for extending the range of services we render. Owing to this particular investment, we could be able to optimize the potential of our gas infrastructure. Therefore, the direct beneficiaries of it will be the participants of the gas market in Poland”*

As early as in mid-June, a Polish company, G-Drilling S.A., started preparatory works connected with establishing of two drill sites, stretched within the distance of ca. 700 meters from each other, conducted in the village of Wińtkowo. At the beginning of August, a drilling rig, around 30 meters high, was placed on the site. Another one is going to be erected in the middle of August.

- *„Their task is to make two boreholes of up to ca. 1800 meters deep under the ground level. Drilling rigs are going to operate 24 hours a day for nearly 4-5 months. They will collect a sample core from the salt dome for the purpose of lab surveys, to give results contributing to the decision on the suitability of the salt dome for the underground gas warehouse”* – adds **Aleksander Zawisza, Deputy Director of Development Department**, representing GAZ-SYSTEM, in charge for the project implementation.

All works related to drilling are monitored by tailored investment supervision. Upon the request of GAZ-SYSTEM, these duties have been outsourced to „Chemkop” Sp. z o.o., the Mining Research & Development Center for Chemical Resources. In addition, the mining supervising authorities for the performed works are the District Mining Office in Gdańsk. Following the termination of operations, sample boreholes will be secured thoroughly, drilling sites closed and the involved area recultivated.

Over the course of project performance, GAZ-SYSTEM has been highly concerned about relations with local communities. The company maintains permanent contact with the local authorities. In June 2017, an information meeting with the inhabitants of Wińtkowo and Ustaszewo was held. It provided details on the borehole drilling works.

- *„A business decision on building of the underground gas warehouse is going to be taken next year, after a final acceptance of research and reconnaissance works as well as following economic and investment analyses”* – concluded **Artur Zawartko**.

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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 Winoujcie.

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 Kądzierzyn Kołomyjski, 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 Winoujcie 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.