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Ultra Tech Pipe used for massive phosphate operation in Saudi Arabia
Company consulted for its longer lasting Induction Hardened Pipe

PORT WASHINGTON, WI Industrial operations constantly deal with worn-out pipe caused by abrasive materials, like phosphate. Slurries that travel through piping systems quickly wear the steel from the inside out.

With Ultra Tech's Induction Hardened Pipe, operations benefit from longer lasting systems by reducing maintenance costs associated with replacement. Global steel supplier Edgen Murray, a corporation with more than 40 years of experience in the phosphate industry, understands the cost efficiency of harder pipe.

"We have a lot of expertise when it comes to abrasive materials, so we always recommend the most cost-effective product that could be used for wear," said Bob Macey, the director of mining for Edgen Murray. "When we were chosen to handle a big project on a new phosphate plant in Saudi Arabia, we recommended Ultra Tech Pipe."

The Saudi operation will use more than a dozen different diameters of Ultra Tech piping - ranging from four to 24 inches. The plant is one of seven that will be in operation.

"It's a massive project," Macey said. "With the projections that I've seen, this will probably be the largest phosphate operation in the world. Everyone is just amazed by the size and scope of it."

Cost-Effective Pipe

For more than 25 years, Ultra Tech has been the leading manufacturer of induction hardened "Ultra 600," a proprietary pipe which reaches a Brinell hardness of 600 BHN. Ultra 600 is used in major operations across the world. Industries, such as mining, power generation, pulp and paper processing, wastewater treatment, dredging and others, depend on Ultra Tech Pipe to keep operations efficiently moving.

Ultra Tech's state-of-the-art facility, located in Port Washington, Wisconsin, uses heat treating to produce an abrasion resistant pipe that lasts three to six times longer than mild steel - providing significant savings in total cost of ownership.

"When your operation includes processing abrasive slurry, you obviously want the best wear rate at the most effective cost," Macey said. "When Ultra Tech induction hardens its pipe, the system out-wears anything in the right application - and even beats other alternatives that cost three to four times as much. Ultra Tech offers a superior product by far."

Longer Wear Life

With Ultra Tech, operations pay less for repair and maintenance thanks to the pipe's hardened inner walls and ductile exterior. The process begins with steel pipe manufactured to a proprietary chemistry developed by Ultra Tech, followed by induction heating and quenching, transforming the pipe's inner surface. The end result is a pipe that combines hardness and strength with an inner surface hardness of a 600 Brinell hardness number (BHN) and a ductile exterior of 250 BHN.

"Ultra Tech Pipe certainly saves you money in that it more than doubles the life of the system without doubling the cost," Macey said. "And there's also a tremendous cost savings in maintenance in addition to the upfront savings. For the right application, Ultra Tech is a no-brainer."

Ultra Tech's induction hardened pipe bends also resist the wear of abrasive materials. By manufacturing larger radius bends - as opposed to the standard bends - the slurry flows more smoothly through the system. Because the bends are continuously formed there are fewer turbulent zones created during the process - ultimately making a much longer lasting pipeline.

"The technical expertise needed to make induction hardened pipe has to be precise," Macey said. "If there's not enough heat or if there's not enough quench to temper at the right time, then bad things can happen. So you must have the expertise and the quality product that Ultra Tech provides."

Reliability

Ultra Tech manufactures nearly 70 miles of pipe a year. In addition to the pipe sent to Saudi Arabia, Ultra Tech has sent 60 miles of pipe to an operation in Florida and 16 miles to a new customer in North Carolina. Ultra Tech's history of meeting customer demand is unmatched.

"We've found that Ultra Tech is the most cost-effective piping system for our operations when compared to other alternatives in the market," Macey said. "The guys at Ultra Tech are professional, responsive and they stand behind their quality products. What else could you ask for?"

About Ultra Tech

Since 1989 Ultra Tech has been a leader in global design, manufacturing, and distribution of quality abrasion resistant piping systems and accessories. Headquartered in Port Washington, Wisconsin, Ultra Tech offers complete piping products and solutions for both standard and specialized high-abrasion applications. As part of the Con Forms family, Ultra Tech also produces pipe spools, bends, and custom fittings. For more information, visit www.UltraTechPipe.com or www.Conforms.com

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