

Large Order for Oil Pipeline

Gabon, located on the west coast of Africa, is one of the most resource-rich nations on that continent, including significant oil reserves. A new pipeline is under construction to serve one of Gabon's oilfields. The operator is French oil and gas company Maurel et Prom.

In early 2008, Colfax Imo Pompes (French subsidiary of ALLWEILER-Colfax in Tours) delivered two complete skid-mounted pump stations for this project: one based on a progressing cavity pump for emptying a tank filled with a water/crude mixture and another that uses three centrifugal pumps for firefighting.

The company is looking forward to a second order from Maurel et Prom anticipated to be worth more than one million euros. This order will include a total of nine ALLWEILER progressing cavity pumps, six Warren two-screw pumps (2030 FSXA), and two complete pumping stations from IMO. These units will be part of the pipeline running between the oil field in Onal and the refinery in Coucal.

Installing screw and progressing cavity pumps in series is an unusual technical solution that delivers extremely high performance for the pipeline. According to Daniel Joslin, Managing Director of Colfax Imo Pompes: "The screw pumps act as pipe-acceleration pumps to move up to 30,000 barrels of crude

oil over a distance of more than 140 km every day. They also have the ability to clean the pipeline by pumping 50 m³ of water per hour at 50 bar."

The crude oil obtained from this oilfield is unusually viscous. Viscosity fluctuates from 30 to 1380 cp at a temperature of approximately 25



ALLWEILER dehydrator/desalter and heat exchanger feeding progressing cavity pumps.

to 60 °C. Among other substances, the crude oil contains up to 10% water by volume and up to 33.6% paraffin. Five warming stations in the pipeline minimize heat losses in order to maintain the product's ability to flow. These stations are also equipped with ALLWEILER progressing cavity pumps. The oil must also be cleaned of foreign matter before entering the pipeline. This is performed in a treatment and cleaning system that is fed by an ALLWEILER progressing cavity

pump. Two additional ALLWEILER pumps are installed for cleaning purposes on the refinery side and of the pipeline.

The pumps comply with all API 676 and ATEX requirements. All performance tests were conducted jointly with the customer at Colfax Imo Pompes in Tours. According to Dr.

Michael Matros, Chairman of ALLWEILER AG and Senior Vice President of Colfax Corporation: "Colfax pumps have proven themselves around the world in extremely challenging oil applications. The customer Maurel et Prom placed a high value on our ability to provide a complete proposal that involves several pump types designed to work together. They were also impressed with our extensive technical support." ■