

INFORMATION EXCHANGE BETWEEN:

LENTRANSGAZ and ELSTER

Within the course of an information exchange and at the invitation of Ruhrgas, a delegation of the management of Lentrangaz visited ELSTER in Mainz, Germany.

Lentransgaz is based in St. Petersburg, Russia and is a subsidiary of the major Russian natural gas supplier Gazprom. Using a pipeline system stretching to a length of over 8000 km, some of which run through areas of permafrost, natural gas is transported from the far north to central and northern Europe in pipes with a diameter of up to 1.4 metres. Along the way, compressor stations with a total capacity of 700 MW make sure that the pressure remains constant. The amount of gas transported each year is approximately the same as the entire consumption of Germany. For economic reasons it is extremely important that Lentransgaz is able to measure the large volume of gas as accurately as possible. This was one of the main reasons that the management responsible for the technical side of the business decided to visit ELSTER together with some experts from Ruhrgas.

When the ELSTER product range was introduced, there were soon a number of interesting discussions concerning the technical possibilities and the customer benefits. Particular interest was shown in the areas of data collection, transfer and evaluation. The management from Lentransgaz was given a brief insight into our fully electronic data chain and the modular design of the system from the encoder totalizer to the transfer of data to host computer centres.

Future methods of measuring the quality of gas both in an economic and precise way were presented. The newly developed IR-method makes use of the well-known physical effect of the absorption of certain infrared spectral regions by the different components of the gas. This technology is able to replace the traditional process chromatograph in the future, which separates the gas components by measuring the thermal conductivity. With both methods, a spectrogram is generated and evaluated by means of a computer, which also calculates the calorific value to an accuracy of approx. +/- 0.3%. The new technology offers the user a highly-accurate operating measurement at a considerably reduced price and, compared to today's methods, the operating costs are also much lower. Besides



Dr. Piotrovsky and Mr. Streltsov discuss about the digital transfer systems with ELSTER's representatives.



"Under one roof" in a cold Germany.

the technical information, the visitors were also introduced ELSTER's internationally standardized quality assurance system. During a factory tour the visitors also saw ELSTER's state-approved test facilities, which are also approved by the Russian metrological institution GOSSTANDARD. Lentransgaz was impressed by the German calibration regulations and the fact that all measurements can be compared favorably to the national master meters belonging to the PTB. The confidence in our test centre was underlined by the fact that it is regularly monitored by the state calibration authorities which are affiliated to the PTB. Furthermore, the quality management system in accordance with ISO 9001 was also presented. With all of this information, ELSTER was able to convince our Russian visitors that the meters and electronic equipment manufactured at ELSTER are of the highest quality with the lowest possible measuring error.

It was altogether a very valuable and interesting exchange of information and ideas from which both companies will benefit in the future.

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