

## SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE FORBIDDEN CITY:

# *Orpheus is now in Beijing*

China officially issued the regulations concerning underground gas stations in October, 2002. Although not elaborate, they serve as a reference and open the door to the application and installation of underground stations in China, including Beijing. In the past, Beijing Gas Group did not use underground stations as they were worried that they were worried that they would be rejected by local authorities since there was no written reference on their use by the relevant authority. With the release of the written regulations and a lot of pre-selling and promotion work by us, Beijing Gas Group eventually agreed to install an IGA's "Orpheus" at a place designated as a pilot installation. As such, our Orpheus was installed at the Nanchizi residential area of Beijing in June 2003.

The renovation and construction project of the Nanchizi residential area is one of the "sixty important projects in Beijing for the year 2003" and is very close to the eastern door of the Forbidden City (Palace Museum), the most famous historic site in China. The renovation was designed to turn the residential area into an overall architectural attraction with traditional Chinese features and to ensure it remained in harmony with the surround-

ding scenery. Construction in such an exclusive residential area does not leave much room to build a gas station above ground or even a cabinet station. Luckily, Beijing Gas Group showed a great deal of interest in the structure and features of the Orpheus gas station from IGA and they realized that there was no other option but to use it. After much discussion and consultation between the related departments from the design institute and the Gas Group and in line with actual operating conditions, we were given the following parameters: gas inlet pressure 4 bar, output pressure 30 mbar and flow capacity about 2000SCMH. As such, we decided to select the twin-stream Series 4 Orpheus with the AFV/4/ORS/636-AS module, which includes a DN80 AFV Regulator, DN150 input and output pipeline, active/slam configuration, as well as inlet/outlet pressure gauges and inlet PE tail. Because of the tight delivery time (within six weeks), we chose to deliver by air from Britain to Beijing and although Beijing was still suffering from SARS at that time and we succeeded in delivering the Orpheus to our customers on time by the end of May. It is planned that the twin units will be installed and put into use before the end of July.



As Beijing, the capital of China and one of the largest cities in China, has a population of 12 million permanent residents and about 4 million temporary residents, the land is expensive and house prices and house rental costs here are the most expensive in China. An underground gas station is, therefore, the most suitable application for use in a city where the price of land is so high. Beijing Gas Group have clearly expressed that if the pilot project of the Orpheus in Nanchizi residential area is successful, they would consider using it in other construction projects, particularly in the construction of the 2008 Olympic sports stadia. It seems that Orpheus will have a real battle to fight! However, we should also pay special attention to the application of Orpheus in the field of gas boilers or air conditioning units since Beijing is constructing or is going to construct office towers or mansions which in areas where space is restricted.

We trust that Orpheus will have a bright future in metropolitan cities in China, such as Beijing and Shanghai. When you next visit Beijing's Forbidden City, be sure to look for the Orpheus located at the eastern door!

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