

Series: Introducing you to a company with tradition and future – Elster Investing for the future – Elster s.r.o. Stará Turá, Slovak Republic

Long before the Slovak Republic became a member of the EU in 2004, Elster had already invested in Stará Turá with an eye to the future. Gas meter production has a long tradition in Stará Turá as gas meters have been manufactured at this site since 1952. From its creation Premagas has been a member of the Elster Group since Elster already held 25% of the shares in this newly founded company. Elster s.r.o. was established in 1992 with the name Premagas s.r.o., one of the subsidiaries of the Chirana Stará Turá Group. In 2002 Premagas s.r.o. then became a 100% subsidiary of the Elster Group.

Until then, Elster s.r.o. had manufactured gas meters on the basis of the company's own development work, primarily turbine gas meters, quantometers and diaphragm gas meters. Since the company was then heavily dependent on exports to Eastern countries, the financial crisis at the time had a massive impact on its markets. Elster s.r.o. nevertheless managed to come out of this crisis even stronger as a result of the Elster Group restructuring its production and its entire product range. Since 1997 gas meter production has gradually been changed to Elster products so that now Elster s.r.o. exclusively manufactures products which have been developed within the Elster Group.

In 2004 water meters were then also included in the product range with pressure regulators joining them in 2007 and the range being supplemented with diaphragm and industrial gas meters in 2008.

In 2005 a new production hall was erected where gas and water meters are now manufactured along with other products. With a massive floor area which currently extends to 8,500 m², the company is now fully concentrated on the efficient production of the very latest equipment. Elster s.r.o. is currently divided into five production segments which cover the following product groups:

- Residential diaphragm gas meters up to size BK G6
- Industrial gas meters: rotary gas meters RVG and IRM3 as well as industrial diaphragm gas meters BK G40/G65/G100



The new building of Elster s.r.o.

- Residential pressure regulators: Types J42 and J77
- Industrial water meters: Types H4000 and C4000
- Residential water meters: Types MO-A, MO-C, HT3 and HT6

Naturally the new products are also manufactured using new, modern machining technologies: CNC mills and lathes are used for the actual production process while computer-controlled special-purpose machines and equipment are used for assembly. Central data logging with automatic adjustment of the flow rates for



Assembly lines for measuring units V1, V2

gas from 16 l/h to 4000 m³/h and for water meters from 15 l/h to 2000 m³/h are standard features for the metrology of gas and water flow rates. New forming technologies with green surface treatment (so-called anti-friction coating) are used in the production of housings for gas meters.

The equipment used by the QA departments has improved accordingly with modern measuring instruments extending up to 3-D measuring equipment and, of course, the company now also holds certification under ISO 9001:2008.



Modern sonic nozzle test rig for rotary and industrial diaphragm gas meters



Testing line for BK gas meters



Computerised testing line for C&I water meters

Deep drawing line with modern anti-friction coating technology

With its switch to SAP systems the company has also been brought right up to date in terms of its business information system. The level of process control and equipment has enabled the company to become a metrological testing body for testing water meters and gas meters according to EU and MID standards. The acknowledgement of the tests for selected measuring instruments by metrological institutions such as PTB in Germany and NMI in the Netherlands has also been achieved by means of consistent modernisation.

Today Elster s.r.o. has a workforce of over 620 people, making it one of the largest manufacturers of gas meters, water meters and regulators in Central and Eastern Europe. The new, modern production facilities and technologies have not only put Stará Turá on the map but have also underlined the spirit adopted by the Elster Group for the future – having top technology available on every continent in the world extending to the research stations in the Arctic.

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