

BLASTING OPERATION IN THE GSM 2 TUNNEL – ISTRES : A SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATIVE PROJECT BETWEEN PREZIOSO LINJEBYGG & PHENICS

**SUCCESS
STORY**

with
 PREZIOSO
Linjebygg



« We were quick to realise we could not continue with our system given the slow progress and the fatigue suffered by our operators.

We chose the WINOA Phenics COMBI+ system for blasting with the integrated aspiration and filtration features.

Your teams were so available and efficient and the on-site assistance they provided to my operators made all the difference. »

Karim AZOUGUI - Project Manager

THE PROJECT

The French company Geosel (Geostock), specialists in underground hydrocarbon storage, entrusted the maintenance of the GSM 2 Sud pipeline to Prezioso Linjebygg, world leader in engineering and technical services, principally for the petrol and gas and power generation sectors. Géosel called upon Prezioso Linjebygg to provide expert teams and a high-quality service for the blasting of a rather complicated structure. The pipeline, located between the Berre and CITIS lagoons (municipality of Istres), runs through a narrow, closed tunnel, 900-metres long, and not accessible to the public. The mission consisted of blasting 1,600m² of pipes with 84 supports - a formidable challenge for Prezioso Linjebygg and Phenics who finally found success at the end of the tunnel!

THE CHALLENGES

Blasting conditions are difficult in a humid and particularly tight, confined space: there is only 20 cm between the pipe and the ground, and 40 cm between the wall and the pipe, not to mention the serious lack of light.

If the environmental constraints were not enough, the coating was also problematic; being lead-based paint with volatile, sometimes

toxic particles and also the area was incredibly dusty. Prezioso Linjebygg was faced with a threefold challenge: guarantee the safety and protection of their teams, provide them with suitable technical equipment and optimise the blasting process to satisfy their customer. It was vital to choose equipment that would deliver safety, efficiency and profitability. Finding a solution to meet these three objectives was imperative.

How the work began :

Work began with the traditional system: 60-litre blasting equipment and manual removal. Prezioso Linjebygg was quick to realise that the circuit filtration system was insufficient as it generates more dust. The onerous nature of the task tired the operators very quickly, slowing progress: it took 1,400 hours to blast 330 metres of pipeline. It was urgent to find THE solution to all these problems.

THE SOLUTION

Prezioso Linjebygg consulted WINOA about the Phenics system: a mobile blasting system recommended for such long-distance operations with unrivalled projection, aspiration and recycling of metal abrasives.

But how could they be sure Phenics was indeed the ideal solution and that they would be able to operate it correctly?

The decision to use the Phenics solutions was a joint decision. The result of consultation and dialogue between the two parties before site preparation: prior visits by the Phenics team and much constructive exchange where each problem was anticipated, discussed, every detail recorded, every element of technical information passed on and interpreted. Everything possible was done to eliminate risks and make the mission a success. The joint decision to start the operation was only made once all the potential problems had been anticipated and solved.

The project was launched with Phenics technology and a Premium product, Profilium 045, the best for this type of blasting. On this new basis, Prezioso Linjebygg can now confidently continue with their missions.

The Phenics system is that solution.

The operators were surprised to find so much pressure in the lance at a projection distance of 520 metres; and what's more, with such efficient aspiration. Also, the equipment is less bulky, comprising simply of blasting lances, and the electric blasting system is lighter than the pneumatic system.

Prezioso Linjebygg chose to change the nozzles from 8mm to 12mm to optimise efficiency.

The operators were also impressed by how easy it is to install the Phenics machine and the availability and efficiency of the Phenics teams and the quality of on-site assistance. The zero-breakdown guarantee was a great relief once the machines were adjusted!

THE ADVANTAGES

A third of the time for blasting 520 m v. two-thirds of the time for blasting 330 m.

A week and a half to clean 520 m of pipeline v. a month and a half to clean 330 m of pipeline with the traditional system.

Prezioso Linjebygg and Winoa met the challenge: they found the solution and the mission was a brilliant success.

Thank you Prezioso Linjebygg for having trusted WINOA!

Thank you PHENICS and Profilium 045. Prezioso Linjebygg was able to reach the end of the tunnel and conduct their maintenance mission in a sustainable and efficient manner!

