Siemens Turbine from Brno Supplies Steam to Cold Siberia

The leading global paper giant Ilim Group is investing over one billion dollars in the extension and modernization of their paper mill in Ust Ilimsk, Siberia, located in the frosty Irkutsk Oblast of the Russian Federation. This investment will include a Siemens turbine from Brno, supplied including auxiliaries to generate electricity and service steam to the giant paper mill starting in 2021.

Ust Ilimsk is known for its extreme climatic conditions. The average annual temperature is around -3°C, and in winter thermometers can sometimes reveal a nearly incredible -53°C. In summer the local population must in turn cope with temperatures above 40°C. These meteorological extremes obviously affect the new hall construction on the premises of the local paper mill, but they will never have any impact on the operation of the steam turbine set by Siemens. “In the 120 years of our existence we have supplied turbines from Brno to nearly seventy countries around the world, and our machines can be found in all inhabited continents. We are able to design turbines for all operating conditions and Siberia in Russia is no exception,” explained Erik Feith, CEO of Siemens Gas and Power, s.r.o. branch Industrial Turbomachinery.

The Brno plant will supply a turbine set to the plant including a back-pressure turbine type SST-400 with a power of 35 MW. The supply will also include the transport of the turbine, supervision, and the commissioning of the whole set. “We will transport the turbine as an oversized load to the Hamburg harbor, from where it will travel by ferry to St. Petersburg and then on a truck again directly to Ust Ilimsk. The whole device will therefore need special protection against saltwater and insulation against temperature fluctuations,” added Mr. Feith.
Ilim Group annually produces 2 million tons of cellulose, representing three quarters of total Russian production. In addition, the plant has a big share in Russian cardboard (20 percent) and paper (10 percent) production. Its production would easily cover the complete annual consumption of paper and cardboard in the whole Czech Republic. This investment worth 1.2 billion dollars into the Ust Ilimsk plant will nearly double its production capacity.

The Brno-based company Siemens Gas and Power, a branch of Siemens Industrial Turbomachinery, employs about 800 experts in the production and servicing of industrial steam turbines with power up to 150 MW. Thanks to increasing demand for its production, the Brno plant currently has vacancies for nearly thirty new colleagues in manufacturing as well as back office staff, including turbine installation and commissioning, offering a unique opportunity to travel on business all over the world.

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