TBY talks to ***Azer N. Isayev***, Director of Caspian Pipe Coatings (CPC), on major international projects, logistics services, and goals for 2016.

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Azer N. Isayev was born in 1965 in Baku and graduated from the Moscow Oil and Gas Institute with an Oil Machinery Engineering specialty in 1987. From 1987-1993, he worked in different mechanical and metallurgical enterprises in engineering positions. From 1993-2007, he worked as Chief of division, deputy head, and head of departments in central economical governmental structures of Azerbaijan. In 2007, he started to work for CPC, the main founder of which is SOCAR, and he has been the Director of the company since 2009. Within this period, CPC has executed significant projects like Azeri-Chirag-Guneshli, Neft Dashlary-Bahar, Bahar-Hovsan, and Chirag Oil Project under the request of BP/AIOC and SOCAR. Presently, the company is implementing the coating and concreting of pipes with different diameters within the framework of the Shah Deniz II project.

What are some of the major international projects in CPC's portfolio?

Over the last 10 years, CPC has participated in the implementation of a number of noteworthy international projects. These include the Azeri-Chirag-Gunashli, Shah Deniz, Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan and Chirag projects. CPC has also been involved in many local projects as well. SOCAR and BP/AIOC have been our major clients for 13 years. CPC participated in, and successfully implemented, the Kashagan project in Kazakhstan in 2009 for EUPEC France, which was our first experience working overseas. The scope of services provided by CPC during these projects depended on the customer or project requirements. It ranged from applying anti-corrosion layers or concrete coating to pipes, performing internal and external blasts, anode installation, and the load-in/out and storage of pipes.

CPC signed a contract with ShawCor Nederland B.V. as part of the Shah Deniz II project. What were some of the upgrades at CPC's plant that took place as a result?

In August 2014, CPC signed a contract with ShawCor Nederland B.V., an operator of the SOCAR-ShawCor Nederland B.V. Alliance for the implementation of the anti-corrosion and concrete weight coating works within the scope of the Shah Deniz Stage II project. We carried out the scheduled upgrading of equipment at our anticorrosive and concrete coating shops, constructed new rail lines, and performed the necessary infrastructure work. Pipe coating works were launched in March 2015 and the completion of anti-corrosion and concrete weight coating of 16' and 32' pipes of about 150km is planned for the end of 2015. The load-out works will be completed in 2016. The joint slogan in this project "One Project - One team" is successfully reflected during the project implementation.

What kinds of logistics services does CPC offer to clients?

Being situated in the industrial zone of Baku, CPC enjoys a convenient geographic location for the implementation of onshore and offshore pipe coating projects. CPC's yard is 260,000sqm in size, including a railway system that is capable of receiving 45 railcars simultaneously. CPC also has a 150m long port on the Caspian Sea, designed to carry out the efficient load-in and load-out of pipes and containers. This dock allows for the handling of cargo operations and the modern lifting and transporting of technical facilities. It also allows the company to provide logistics services to clients with high international standards. We have road infrastructure that enables us to carry out the highway transportation of various goods. In addition to performing inspections related to the coatings on main pipelines, CPC also offers loading and offloading services of pipes, containers, and large loads from railways, ships, or trucks. CPC provides for the storage of these loads as well, in open or sheltered warehouse facilities.

CPC has an anticorrosive coating plant capacity of 70-120 pipes per shift and concrete weight coating plant capacity of 50-140 pipes per shift depending on the diameter of the pipes.

What is the production capacity of the several workshops under operation by CPC?

The production capacity of the anticorrosive coating plant is between 70-120 pipes per shift. The total output depends on various factors such as the size, diameter, and thickness of the pipes as well as the type of coating that we will apply. The production capacity of the concrete weight coating plant is between 50-140 pipes, again depending on those same factors.

What are your main goals for 2016?

We have a couple of goals in mind for 2016. Our first goal is the successful provision of services for the three-layer anti-corrosive coating and concrete coating of pipes as part of the Shah Deniz II project. Our second goal is to increase and further develop the load-out of pipes by marine vessels. This will be an overriding priority for CPC in 2016, as well as looking for new opportunities and projects. ✖