

Customer Training

TRAVELOGUE

A Journey to Chad

In Jan. 2008 *Harry Lankenau*, Head of Technical Service and Engineering, and *Timo Kitschen*, Head of Spare Parts, visited ESSO Exploration and Production Chad, Inc. (EEPC) in Komé, Chad, Central Africa, where EEPC manages three oil fields.

Natural gas, which is a by-product of oil production here, is compressed by piston compressors and converted into electricity by gas turbines to supply the energy needs on site.

EEPC runs a total of six NEUMAN & ESSER piston compressors, four type 3SVL63 compressors and two type 2SZL130 machines in the South of Chad.

In addition to technical issues, the service activities planned for the beginning of 2009 were also discussed at that time. Through these discussions, it became clear that a training program for local staff would be advisable, as only a few had experience of working with piston compressors.

Training before Service

Once the two managers had returned, an appropriate training program was designed for EEPC. In addition to covering the fundamentals of piston compressors and thermo dynamics, the program would also focus in particular on the two types of compressors and plant components installed on site. The training program was planned to take place shortly before the service activities were due to start.

By Dec. 2008, a date for the program had been fixed. *Norbert Janßen*, Product Manager for Training, would carry out the program in the third week in January, not forgetting to receive the injection to extend his vaccination against yellow fever, which is required for those travelling to Chad.

A different World

On Jan. 18, 2009 Mr. Janßen set off from Düsseldorf via Paris to N'Djamena, where he was met by the customer. The next morning began with a security briefing at the offices of EEPC in N'Djamena, before he returned to the airport again to fly on to Komé, in the south of Chad.

The EEPC site in Komé not only includes the production facility and offices, but also the airport and the camp housing the staff and visitors. *Innocent*



Memtombaidé, Predictive Maintenance Technician at EEPC, welcomed Mr. Janßen in Komé and looked after him throughout his entire stay in the best manner of guest friendliness.

Unquenchable Thirst for Knowledge

The program finally started on Tuesday morning, with 15 eager members of the Operating, Maintenance and Rotating Equipment staff for EEPC Komé attentively following the explanations of compressor design and the fundamentals of thermo dynamics. The methods for diagnosing problems were also described.

The EEPC compressors were looked at more closely on Wednesday and Thursday. Both compressor types were examined in detail with special attention given to the important components, such as the oil system and pulsation dampeners. The operators also received useful information on the day-to-day operation of the compressors. Finally, a troubleshooting session looked at the symptoms for malfunctions and their possible causes. There was no lack of interested questions from the participants throughout the three days of training. At noon on Thursday, the participants were tested on what they had learned. A group photo was taken to round off the course before it meant saying goodbye to the class of eager African trainees - a new and positive experience for the widely-travelled Mr. Janßen.

