



New Investments for the Whole Region

MESSER TEHNOGAS

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With the construction of Messer's new 20-million-euro air separation unit in Bor, the Bor Mining and Smelting Basin will receive three times more oxygen than before.

Messer Tehnogas, part of Germany's Messer Group, launched the new plant and, according to Ernst Bode, long-serving executive director of Messer Tehnogas, with the new oxygen plant, the Bor Mining and Smelting Basin will be provided with three times more oxygen than in the past. Bode added that he was happy construction had been completed, but also used the opportunity to state that, due to bureaucratic obstacles in our country, the project's implementation had faced delays.

"We invested 20 million euros in the construction of the new plant, which will produce 10,000 cubic metres of oxygen and 7,000 cubic metres of nitrogen per hour. The new oxygen plant corresponds with the demands of new technologies in the area of metallurgy and will also be able to satisfy the needs of the Bulgarian and Romanian markets – stated Bode.

He especially emphasised that Messer had quickly synchronised with the Basin Bor and was adhering to the supply agreement for sup-

plying the Basin with technical gases without any problems since Messer took over the old oxygen plant in 2009, at a cost of \$2.7 million.

"Our company has been operating in Serbia since 1997 and to date we have invested more than 100



Messer has to date invested a total exceeding 100 million euros

million euros. We employ 344 people in our plants in Bor, Smederevo, Niš, Pančevo, Novi Sad, Belgrade and Kraljevo, as well as at our production locations in Montenegro" said Bode.

Cooperation between Messer and the Bor Mining and Smelting Basin is excellent and this technolo-

gy provides the basin with cheaper production, using liquid oxygen instead of coal, which is very expensive, thus enabling cheaper production of copper, higher income and thereby more means for further development.

"This investment would not be possible without the investment into the new Smelter at the Bor Mining and Smelting Basin. I am very happy that Bor will be saved in this way. Now it has a good future, while this was not the case five or

environmental impact, is ecologically friendly and has technology that is itself controlled and, therefore, there is no security risk for the people of Bor.

Based on needs in both the country and the region, as well as on the basis of projected capacities, it has been planned to export around 80 per cent of the oxygen produced to Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania, Greece, Macedonia, Albania, Montenegro, Bosnia's Republika Srpska and the BiH Federation.

This is a relatively expensive investment for Messer Tehnogas, but it is an investment in the future and in Bor, as well as in Serbia as a whole, so there was no dilemma about whether or not to invest.

In meantime, Messer Tehnogas has also opened its new helium filling plant in Pančevo. The filling plant will handle several variations of this gas, from balloon gas to gaseous helium 6.0, supplying customers in Serbia and regional countries like Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Macedonia, Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey and Greece. The investment will secure and improve the position of Messer Tehnogas on the market, increasing its competitiveness.

Investments are continuing when it comes to developing other production and filling plants, such as helium and refrigerant filling plants, or renovating filling plants for special gas mixtures. The value of these additional investments is estimated at around five million euros. ■

six years ago, and everything could have ended very differently. However, this turned out to be a good story, thanks to good and clever people, and an excellent example of how to make a company successful" said Bode.

It should also be noted that the new oxygen plant has no negative