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EVRAZ NTMK Relaunches Blast Furnace 6

22 July 2020 – EVRAZ NTMK (Nizhniy Tagil) completed the overhaul of Blast Furnace 6. Together with Blast Furnace 7 launched in April 2018, they form the most up-to-date and environment-friendly steel-making facility in Russia.

The project has taken \$176 mln in investments and 16 months to complete. The volume of the furnace is 2,200 m³, its scheduled annual production capacity – 2.5 mln tonnes of pig iron. Blast Furnace 5 reached the end of its useful life and was idled, decision on its further use pending.

Blast Furnace 6 has two casting yards, featuring closed-type main and transportation chutes, automated top and bottom charging systems, shaftless air heaters, and aspiration units that contain more than 34,500 filters. The total capacity of the aspiration systems servicing the casting yard and stock-conveying system is 3.1 mln m³/hour.

During the overhaul, Blast Furnace 6 was fitted out with modern gas treatment stations; the project, along with EVRAZ's other environmental initiatives, was listed as part of the federal project Clean Air within the national project Environment.

An expert system is used at Blast Furnace 6 to analyse and adjust the manufacturing processes. Using over 12,000 parameters, it can select the optimal conditions and manage the melting process in an automated mode.

'Relaunch of Furnace 6 after the overhaul is a milestone for the plant and an important development for Nizhniy Tagil community – when implementing the project, we were guided by environmental considerations, selecting the cutting-edge technologies with a good record', says Denis Novozhenov, EVRAZ Vice President, Head of Urals Division. 'An automated furnace control system and the expertise of EVRAZ NTMK professionals will enable us to boost efficiency of our operations, while the powerful aspiration units will be cleansing the air 2.5 times better.'

With two cutting-edge blast furnaces in place, EVRAZ can expect a reduction of costs thanks to decreasing the frequency and duration of interim overhauls and lower coking coal consumption.

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