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**Contents of KWD-globalpipe 2007-285:**

1. WRW redefine the performance of multilayer pipes .....	1
2. Building boom in Russia lifts the demand for plastic pipes .....	3
3. Russia's water industry on the brink of major investment .....	4
4. JUPITER's IDEAL EPS System: Flexible Heat for Maximum Comfort .....	6
5. First manufacturing of CPVC pipes was launched in Russia .....	6
6. Wavin Responds To Challenging Market Conditions .....	7
7. Amicopipe: Chinese Producer of PEX-, PPR- and Composite pipes .....	7
8. Brugg Rohrsystem: The clamp principle is established / CALPEX® T-shell is available in the 'Big' size .....	8
9. Zurn Industries USA: New Alumicor® PEX-Al-PEX tubing/ EcoVantage wins green award .....	8
10. NAHB/US: Housing Starts Decline 3.3 % in May 2008/ Lowest total starts number since March of 1991 .....	9
11. OneBeacon Insurance Group USA: Protect Yourself Against Copper Theft .....	10
12. NSF Opens New Office in Thailand to Enhance Food and Water Quality throughout Asia .....	10

**WRW redefine the performance of multilayer pipes**



KWD-globalpipe, 2008-06-24, No.285. In 2008, the Westphalian multilayer pipe manufacturer WRW (Westfälische Rohrwerke GmbH) in Ahlen, North-Rhine Westphalia, can celebrate **a special anniversary after a rapid development**: The team's cooperation, which is probably unique in this way, has been lasting now for 25 years, because **25 years**

**ago the history of the lap-welded multilayer pipe began.**

The team, which now form WRW's management, have **lead this pipe from the patent to series-production readiness and have been technically leading in this area up to now.**

**Gerhard Auental**, General Manager and head of the sales department, expresses this: "We repeatedly influenced the market. Now again **we can present an innovation, which redefines safety in use.**"

On the occasion of their 25th anniversary in multilayer pipe development WRW present the most recent results of their **research work**. Under the **project name 4500+** the company **raised the load capacity limit of lap-welded multilayer pipes to a level unknown up to now** by using new materials in the pre-series:

Samples of the dimension 16 mm **withstood a temperature of 95 °C under a pressure of 30 bar for nearly 5000 hours.**



**Image caption:** With long time rupture strength values exceeding 4950 hours at 95 °C and 30 bar, Westfälische Rohrwerke WRW redefine the performance potential of multilayer pipes.

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Compared to already existing pipes this represents a **well over tenfold increase**. “This **result will change the market**, because it shows that the **potentials of multilayer pipes are not exhausted for a long time yet**. There are still large reserves which open up to those manufacturers who technically have the process under control.”, says **Edmund Pilarski**, General Manager and responsible for research and development at WRW.

Therefore, **WRW see the real innovation in defining a completely clear differentiation from suppliers** who will not be able to offer more than the existing qualities. **This is the only way to reverse the trend** in which the multilayer pipe would lose its enormous potential in a price war and would become an import article.

In order to extend this lead even further, **WRW are already working on the next project**. Under the designation **MLP-X-4** WRW have set out to deal with the **application of new technologies** and have **developed a method in which the metal layer is lap-welded by using laser**. „Thus we have opened the door towards **changing many production parameters**. The layers are welded considerably more gently and effectively. This **actually results in a welding factor of 1.0**, so that the welding seam shows the **same load capacity as the raw material does**. The resulting characteristics of the pipe identify the **quality very quickly**. This can be compared to a 3-litre car having the power of 200 HP, this cannot be effected with common technology.“, explains Edmund Pilarski. This means **WRW are up to rework the technology of the multilayer pipe**, which has remained virtually unchanged since the beginnings.



**History already gave reason to believe** that the company would claim the position of a technology leader: The **team's career at SP Verbundrohr GmbH** in Vorhelm started with modest means. When later on the technical obstacles had been overcome so that the sales department could start on a larger scale, **in 1989 Unicor Rohrsysteme GmbH was gained as a sales partner**.

In **1994**, the continuing improvement of the **production methods allowed the use of 4 extruders and thus different materials for the inner and outer layer**.

In **1995 Unicor developed its own machine technology**, SP Verbundrohr GmbH went into liquidation. The **core team and the Nadia patent went on to Unicor** and won a good reputation on the market due to highest quality.

In **1997 then PE-RT was launched onto the market**, a material which

rendered unnecessary the cross-linking of the PE layers applied up to now. At that time this was a **step which was not thought to be very successful on the market**. Today the material is standard in multilayer pipes production. **Up to the year 2001** the range of products had been extended and developments in the **dimensions 9 110 mm** had been realized. In 2001 Unicor merged with a Finnish group.

In **2004 the group released the competence** of the location by a closedown and in August in the **same year WRW Westfälische Rohrwerke GmbH was founded**.

The **management team rapidly pushed ahead the building up of the company with the conception of their own machine technology**. This includes the knowledge from well over 20 years of work which up to now could not be realized.

In **January 2008 the production with its 4 production lines** moved into their own buildings and since then has been producing a standard program **ranging from 11.5 to 75 mm** there.

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