



Working on the environmentally friendly loop

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Pride and satisfaction – that's what Project Manager Paul Ashdown (left) feels about the work done on the largest water treatment plant in the southern hemisphere (above).

The careful management of basic resources such as water is growing in importance. GF Piping Systems, one of the leading suppliers of piping systems for water treatment and purification, gears its products in order to offer globally available, integrated system solutions. That was one of the reasons why GF Piping Systems was selected by the Western Corridor Recycled Water Project (Australia) to work for the largest water purification project in the southern hemisphere. Common goal is a major benefit for environment as well as human beings.

His business card says "Senior Project Engineer", but Paul Ashdown describes himself as the Mechanical Engineer in charge of construction. Both these titles understate the scope of his role with Western Corridor, working on the Gibson Island Alliance recycled water project. Leading a team of five, Ashdown is responsible for the construction of one of three advanced water treatment plants, part of the largest water purification project in the southern hemisphere. He has been spearheading the project since the design stage in January 2007, and his role here continues as the second stage of building approaches completion.



Projects on this scale require perfect cooperation between many partners. Once the water reaches the plant, it is channelled into a number of smaller valve systems and then treated several times over.



Large-size pipes are used to transport the water to the plant. All in all GF provided six kilometers pipes of varying sizes.

“Service second to none”

The plant supplies purified water for industrial use, and even though it is presently operating at 90 percent capacity as the final construction takes place, the volume it is producing is far greater than initially envisioned. “The plant here on Gibson Island was originally conceptualised as a 50 megalitre (50 million litres) plant,” he explains. “But this year we were asked to upscale our piping to the 100 million litre level.” This change in the goal of the project put extra pressure on all suppliers, and with over nine kilometers of piping laid (a little over six of which are Georg Fischer PVC pipes of varying sizes), GF had to be especially responsive. Ashdown elaborates: “I expect two things from my suppliers: service and quality. With GF you know that the quality is there, and their service is second to none. They helped me source products from all over the world as the job became larger and more complex, and were able to deliver all my needs as I required them.”

Whole programme of environmental benefits

Western Corridor Recycled Water Pty Ltd is wholly owned by the Queensland Government, and is an important part of its South East Queensland Water Grid, the largest urban drought response in Australia. The Gibson Island plant is located at Murarrie in the eastern suburbs of Brisbane and has the greatest production capacity of the Western Corridor Recycled Water Project’s three advanced water treatment plants. It produces clean, demineralised water from secondary treated

wastewater via a micro-filtration reverse osmosis (MFRO) process. With drought such a pressing issue in Australia, access to a sustainable source of water is of supreme importance to the community.

The completed project has the capacity to provide enough water for more than 1.3 million people meeting target of their water consumption levels. The Gibson Island plant directly supplies one of the region’s major power stations that provides energy to a large part of Brisbane city and its surrounds. The environmental benefits flow through the whole programme; from the device that enables rainwater run-off from the main process building to be collected and combined with incoming water for treatment, down to the supply of water to Incitec Pivot company next door.

Challenging “fast-track” construction

The goal of the Western Corridor Recycled Water Project is to deliver a complete recycled water solution, comprising over 200 kilometres of pipeline and three advanced water treatment plants, by December 2008 – a timeframe of a little under two years.

To achieve this, the company has involved the world’s leading engineering and construction companies, and the tight timeframe has required great responsiveness from all involved. Paul Ashdown explains: “This project is what they call a ‘fast-track’ job, which means we are building things basically as we are designing them. The challenge for me is to bring everything together, to make sure we are building in accordance with good

The ball valve type 546 is the fully developed result of 40 years GF Piping Systems experience in plastic piping systems know-how. It is part of a modular system that satisfies the requirements of operational reliability as well as of eco-friendliness and cost-effectiveness.



Gibson Island Alliance Recycled Water Project

System solutions by GF Piping Systems

100 million litres purified water supply per day

in Brisbane and its surrounds

for 1.3 million people

engineering practice, but also ensuring that all the product, equipment and people are in place, where I need them, when I need them." Acquiring supplies in a timely fashion sees him and his team constantly liaising with their suppliers. "Georg Fischer are fantastic in this regard," he says. "They have been very responsive to my needs and pro-active in seeking solutions."

A marriage of values

Paul Ashdown is a man whose love of his profession shines through in his work. He derives profound satisfaction from seeing something built: "You see an endpoint; you take something from the layout stage and see it grow before your eyes. It is very rewarding!"

The partnership with GF on this project can in this way be seen as a marriage of parallel values. For Ashdown, it is the pride in his work that drives him in the creation of a world-class facility that brings so much benefit to the South East Queensland community; whilst for GF, the world-renowned commitment to quality and customer support ultimately achieves the same result.

Wide range of system solutions

GF Piping Systems is a leading supplier of plastic piping systems for the safe transport of liquids and gases. It offers a wide range of systems solutions for applications in industry, gas and water supply and building services. The solutions from Georg Fischer in the increasingly important field of water treatment make clean water affordable and employ efficient components.

With its 4,700 employees, GF Piping Systems is present in more than 100 countries, offering effective service and round-the-clock customer support. More than 30 sales companies work for customers around the world, while manufacturing is spread over 25 production plants. Globally operating customers increasingly demand globally available, integrated systems solutions from a single source in order to exclude compatibility risks.

Rapid deliverability is a decisive factor giving GF the competitive edge. Decentralised distribution centres in key markets have been opened on schedule. Research and development are located in Switzerland, the United States and China.