

WELCOME to the latest edition of the Zenith International Technical consulting newsletter. As the credit crunch continues to bite, many businesses are looking for extra ways to save money on materials and improve efficiencies. Also, companies are taking the initiative to prepare for recovery by carrying out essential development or maintenance projects that would otherwise take second place. Examples include borehole refurbishments, source protection works, development of new resources and general improvements to manufacturing facilities.

If you have any queries about ideas presented in this newsletter, please feel free to contact us using the details on the back.

Zenith leads in evaluation of new gravel pack alternative



Zenith is working closely with a UK supplier of recycled glass to assess its potential application as an alternative to the usual aggregate based gravel pack. A gravel pack is designed to stabilise the ground around a borehole and protect the well screen, while preventing sediment getting into the water supply.

With the collapse of the recycled glass market in the current economic climate, much of this material is ending up in landfill, whilst the cost of aggregates continues to increase. Finding alternative applications has an obvious environmental benefit and can prove cheaper than using conventional materials.

The glass product is manufactured from recycled container glass using ultrasonic waves to produce a smooth particle shape capable of being handled safely. The graded particles are then washed to remove any traces of contamination and hot-air dried at 350°C before packing ready for use.

Zenith believes this material, due to its smooth surface, may offer significant hygiene benefits over conventional gravel packs, being easier to disinfect at the time of installation and less prone to biofouling during use.

Zenith is working with the manufacturer to assess its potential application and with the University of Birmingham to test its hydraulic performance in use.

If you are planning a new borehole or spring source development or if you would like any further information, please contact Water & Environment Manager Mark Mulcahy.

Highland Spring takes on the Highlands

When Speyside Glenlivet went into administration earlier this year, there was a risk that the eponymous Scottish Natural Mineral Water might disappear forever. Its acquisition by Highland Spring, the UK's biggest brand with total sales in 2008 of 222 million litres, means that production at the plant continues.

The technical team at Zenith was pleased to be asked by Highland Spring to carry out a pre-acquisition source due diligence. Of prime importance in any Natural Mineral Water company acquisition is developing as full an understanding of the quality of the source as is possible in the time available. To do this, we reviewed the geology and hydrogeology, and developed a conceptual understanding of the source of the water. Inspection of extensive quality records added to this understanding of the source and the protection afforded by the geology. Wyllie Woodburn, Operations Director of Highland Spring said:

"We are really excited by this new opportunity. Making the decision was greatly aided by Zenith's expertise and advice and this gave us the confidence to proceed with the acquisition."

World-class brewing operation

Zenith has recently been working with an Icelandic brewer, Ölgerðin Egill Skallagrímsson ehf, to assess its operations and provide advice to help realise its ambition of becoming 'world-class'.

At a time when there is significant industry consolidation and the majors are taking over many facilities around the world, the requirement for independents to be more competitive, more efficient and more economical is great. These were the reasons for our client bringing in Zenith.

The project is being run by Zenith's Production Principal and Master Brewer, Harry Glover, who is a vastly experienced engineer in all forms of beverage operations. To improve any facility to a world-class operation takes great experience and specialist knowledge. In Harry and the team of supporting engineers, Zenith has just that.

We were able to visit the site and review its operations right through from malt intake to final packaging. Under Harry's watchful and analytical eyes, areas of weakness and shortcomings were highlighted, allowing remedial actions to be recommended. We also carried out a benchmarking study against international standards.

The brewery is now well on its way to becoming the 'world-class operation' it desires to be and Zenith will be there at every stage to ensure it achieves this ambition in the most timely and cost effective manner. As Mr Ásgeir Jónsson, Technical Director of Ölgerðin Egill Skallagrímsson ehf said:

"The decision I took to get Zenith to work for us is probably one of the best decisions I have made in my 10 years working at the company."



Dates for your diary

24 September Free Water Seminar

Are you responsible for managing water use? Do you have performance targets for water reduction? Then you can't afford to miss our FREE one day seminar on water management best practice on 24th September 2009. Topics covered will include:

- understanding water distribution
- water legislation
- water supply risk management - mains and self supply
- water quality risks
- water and effluent recycling

For more information, go to www.zenithinternational.com or email pcoverdale@zenithinternational.com.

28-29 October UK Bottled Water Industry Conference, Harrogate

The annual UK Bottled Water Industry Conference is a two day event incorporating a plant tour, market briefings, industry dinner and conference.

10-12 November Global Bottled Water Congress, Istanbul

The Congress theme of 'New World, new agenda' aims to assist companies in addressing the combined pressures of an economic downturn in addition to public concerns about health and the environment.

Consulting

Water & environment
Strategy & management
Mergers & acquisitions
Market & commercial
Technical & operations

Information services

Market reports
Online data
Industry news
Events
Magazines

e-mail us info@zenithinternational.com
or visit zenithinternational.com

zenithinternational 7 Kingsmead Square ♦ Bath BA1 2AB ♦ United Kingdom
t +44 (0)1225 327900
f +44 (0)1225 327901