



## Is it possible to make a profit during scheduled maintenance?

Perhaps one of the toughest decisions in managing any industrial plant is knowing when to shut down production in order to carry out scheduled maintenance – finding the balance between market demands and seasonality, lost revenue and increased expenses, stopping today to be better tomorrow... This is a challenge that has been successfully overcome at a geothermal facility in Europe, simply by carrying out maintenance while keeping the plant in full production.

Geothermal power is a clean and renewable energy source. In some areas of the world, it provides a large proportion of the local population's energy supply.

Hempel has participated in a number of projects involving geothermal facilities. At one such maintenance project, our Versiline CUI 56990 coating was being used to repair corrosion under insulation (CUI). In total, 1,700m<sup>2</sup> of geofluid piping was being repaired. Such a project would normally require that the facility is shutdown during maintenance work. However, at this project the application company performed the maintenance while keeping the plant in operation. As a result, the client was not required to slow or halt production at any time in the process.

As is standard practice on any pipe coating renewal, the first stage was to strip the piping of its old insulated cladding to gain access to the steel pipe, which was then abrasive blasted to grade SA2½. Once the surface was suitably clean, it was coated with two 150 micron coats of Versiline CUI 56990, our single component inorganic copolymer coating designed specifically to protect against CUI. It was then insulated with new metal cladding.

You may say there is nothing very special about this story so far. But what makes the project interesting is the application temperature. The technical specification for Versiline CUI 56990 states that it is designed for long-term protection of hot pipework, equipment and other hot surfaces and can be applied directly onto the steel substrate. In this project, that steel substrate was at a constant temperature of 140°C during both the blasting and coating stages. This meant that the facility could keep operating throughout.

The project is a magnificent example of how Versiline CUI 56990 offers tremendous cost-saving benefits over conventional aluminium silicone coatings. In this case by minimising the expense of scheduled maintenance by keeping production in full swing.



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