



*Drinking water supply in the Velký Krtíš district in the Slovak Republic: The EU is providing most of the finance*

**Some 30,000 people in 50 municipalities will be benefiting from this 28 million Euro project**

It was back in 2005 that the project for an improved drinking water supply for the southern part of the Velký Krtíš district in the Slovak Republic was first documented. Some 30,000 people live in this region, which is weak in infrastructure and mainly agricultural. The project was on a large scale and initially it proved impossible to get it underway for lack of finance. It was only late in 2007 that the finance for the project, which will cost 28 million Euros, became available. 70% of the cost is being financed from European Union funds. Construction work began in the first half of 2008 and the current assumption is that the project will be completed by the end of 2010.

The aim and purpose of this ambitious project, which is divided into six individual pieces of construction work, is not only to improve the regional drinking water supply but also to allow more logical use to be made of the drinking water from the reservoir at Hriňová and the springs at Luboreč and Opava and to enable the transporting facilities to be designed for greater efficiency.

All in all, in the course of the implementation of the project, 33,000 metres of drinking water pipelines of nominal sizes of DN 500 and DN 400 are going to be laid.

After negotiations on a wide range of points, Watersystems s.r.o. Bratislava (formerly Tatra-Armatura s.r.o. Bratislava), acting as the sole sales partner of Buderus litinové systémy s.r.o. Beroun (BGC) in the Slovak Republic, was given the contract to supply ductile cast iron pipes.



**ZMU convinced!**



Because of the corrosive soils in the Velký Krtíš region, a polyethylene coating had initially been specified for the pipes in the invitation to tender. However, the experts at the technical department of BGC had a better idea and recommended to Watersystems s.r.o. that it hold discussions with the customer, the investors and the planning company to suggest an alternative which would be better in both technical and financial terms – namely the ZMU coating – and that it checks whether special surface protection was in fact appropriate for all the sections of the pipeline. Once again, it was seen how important the Buderus Applications Engineering Division is as a problem-solver for the customer, because once the advantages of the cement mortar coating, and specially its mechanical load-bearing capacity, had been demonstrated and documentary evidence has been shown of the potential savings on the earth-moving work, it was easy for the company handling construction to decide to amend the requirements profile for the coating. Also, chemical analysis of the groundwater revealed that highly corrosive soils were present along only a third of the route. So Buderus ZMU pipes were laid in this section of the pipeline. What are used in the other sections are pipes with a zinc coat (200 g/m<sup>2</sup>) and a blue epoxy resin cover coating. The recommendation to opt for the BLS® restrained socket point was also accepted. From May to December of 2008, a total of 16,470 metres of cast iron pipes were delivered to the site and another 16,530 metres will be following this year.