

Al Ain



Supplying drinking water in the oasis city of Al Ain An order worth four million Euros goes to Buderus

Al Ain is the second largest city in the emirate of Abu Dhabi. The one-time oasis, which still exists in the city centre as a palm grove for pedestrian access, is situated about 150 km to the west of the capital on the border with Oman. Thirty years ago Al Ain was still a village, but the city at the foot of the crag called Jebel Hafet has long since developed into a modern metropolis with some 430,000 inhabitants – and the population is still rising.

The city spreads over a lot of ground and covers an area equal to that covered by Paris. However there are no high-rise buildings here as there are in the capital Abu Dhabi. No building is more than six floors high. The “Garden City”, as it is called in the Gulf region, owes the rapid pace at which it has developed to the founder of the United Arab Emirates and their former president, Zayid bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who was born here. He wanted to see his emirate, and above all his place of birth, as a green place.

The sharp rise in the population (there are also many foreign workers living here) made it necessary for the drinking water supply to be urgently updated. The Ministry of Water of the emirate has put the remedying of the poor supply high on its list of priorities, especially as further

growth is expected in Al Ain. The capacity of the drinking water supply system has to allow for this future development.

To BGW the situation was clear – it would face severe competition on the Al Ain projects I & II. And that was why it was all the more satisfying that in the end the order, worth 4 million Euros, did go to Wetzlar.

“Through B.P.S., our sales and distribution company, we are going to be supplying a total of 25.2 kilometres of ductile cast iron pipes of nominal sizes from 100 to 900 millimeters. About 10% of the pipes will have BLS® restrained joints”, says Peter Waßmuth, the sales manager responsible for Africa and the Indian sub-continent at Wetzlar.

The contractor in this case is Al Salmeen Contracting and their decision was similar to that on the Yas Island project, namely to opt for BGW, firstly because there were special coating requirements that BGW were able to meet and secondly because BGW were able to make the first part delivery by as early as April 2009. A total of some 4,900 tonnes are being shipped first by train to Antwerp and from there by ship to the Gulf. Trucks carrying loads of tightly packed pipes then take over for the final stretch to the city in the desert.

