

PGE: new unit No. 5 of the Opole Power Plant has been put into service

On 31 May 2019, unit No. 5 with a capacity of 900 MW began operating in the National Power System. PGE Górnictwo i Energetyka Konwencjonalna, a company of the PGE Capital Group has released today a Completion Certificate and has taken over unit No. 5 for use and operation. Yesterday, i.e. on 30 May 2019, PGE GiEK was granted a license to generate electricity from the unit. The takeover of unit No. 5 for operation took place before the deadline (set for 15 June 2019), included in the annex to the agreement with the General Contractor.

*Unit No. 5 of the Opole Power Plant is put into full operation half a month before the date provided for in the current schedule. We consistently increase our role in ensuring the country's energy security, and the modern technology used in the construction of power units allows us to significantly reduce the environmental impact of the power plant, including the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions by approximately 25 percent per unit of energy produced – says **Henryk Baranowski, President of the Board of PGE Polska Grupa Energetyczna.***

*We are in the final stage of the largest investment project in Poland after 1989. On 15 January 2019 the first synchronization of unit No. 5 of the Opole Power Plant with the National Power System took place and today the new unit has been officially put into service. This project is the pride of our company – says **Robert Ostrowski, President of PGE Górnictwo i Energetyka Konwencjonalna.***

In the recent months, in addition to the necessary technical measurements, optimizing the combustion process and the adjustment of the auxiliary systems conducted, also minimum performance tests and a 30-day uninterrupted operation test have been carried out. This was necessary to check the proper functioning of all elements of the generating unit. Unit No. 5 has been fitted with all the basic and auxiliary systems and installations ensuring functional operation in conjunction with the existing units No. 1 to 4.

Modern technology that was used for the construction of unit No. 5 in Opole takes into account the existing national and EU standards of environmental protection. – The use of the best technology solutions, including the installation of high-end electrostatic precipitators or a wet flue gas desulphurization system will allow the plant to be even more environmentally friendly – says Robert Ostrowski.

The construction of generating units in the Opole Power Plant was a big challenge, not only in technical terms but also in terms of design, logistics and coordination. The scale of the project is represented by the number of regulations and standards used in the course of construction. We are talking about 2.4 thousand binding legal norms on the basis of which the contractor carried out the works. Another impressive thing is the number of steel structures used for the construction of the units, which can be compared to the structure of the New York Empire State Building (65 thousand tons) and the quantity of concrete, which would in turn would be sufficient to build a second Pentagon (250 thousand tons).

The appearance of the cooling towers that will operate the new units also draws attention. An enormous drawing of a rainbow, sun and notes has been painted on the outer shell. On the one hand it relates to the adjacent cooling towers and on the other to the city of Opole, the capital of Polish music. This unusual "art work" required painting an area of 4.5 ha, which is greater than the area of six football pitches.

New unit No. 5, with the gross capacity of 900 MW is one of two units built in the Opole Power Station. After the completion of the project, the power plant will be placed in the forefront of the world's state-of-the-art power plants and will also significantly increase its role in the energy security of Poland. The new units will generate up to 12.5 TWh of electricity per year to meet the needs of more than 4 million households. The due date to put unit No. 6 into service remains unchanged, in accordance with the annex to the agreement, i.e. 30 September 2019.

It is worth stressing that the construction of the Opole Power Plant means not only the increase of the PGE Group's assets but also the development of Polish companies. As much as 70 percent of the value of all contracts went to Polish companies and out of every zloty spent by PGE, 70 groszy remains in Poland.

The project in Opole, worth more than PLN 11.6 billion gross is being implemented by PGE Górnictwo i Energetyka Konwencjonalna, a company of the PGE Capital Group. On the order of PGE, the contractor is a consortium of: Rafako, Polimex-Mostostal, Mostostal Warszawa and GE Power, who is the general designer, supplier of key devices and a proxy of the consortium.