



CASE STUDY

CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISION FOR ONE OF THE LARGEST ALUMINIUM PRODUCERS IN THE WORLD

SGS carries out Construction Supervision providing diverse commissioning, automation and electrical services during the 6 months expansion of the Aluminium and Alumina refinery in São Luiz. Alumar is a consortium between Alcoa, RioTintoAlcan and BHP Billiton. Operating since 1984, it is one of the largest and most complex Aluminium and Alumina producers in the world. The current expansion aims to increase the production of Alumina at the refinery from 1,500,000 tons a year to 3,500,000 tons a year.

In the first instance SGS provided 43 construction supervisors to avoid any further delays in the project plan. São Luiz is located 3,000 km away from the major industrialised areas of Brazil such as São Paulo or Rio de Janeiro, which means there is an acute shortage of qualified labor in the area. This first team was responsible for the identification of bottlenecks and the inspection of the electrical and automation works performed by the Engineering, Procurement, Construction (EPC) contractor.

With the extension of the original Construction Supervision contract, since December 2008 an additional 200 professionals have been brought on board to carry out the assembling of control instruments, the calibration and certification of these instruments as well as the commissioning of the plant for the owners. The estimated completion date of the facility is August 2009. The complexity revealed in the set-up of the team. In less than one month, 200 experts and specialists were selected and hired; many of them were in the region relocated and were given local support to wind up all the administrative tasks.

In the background of this highly-priced project stays the acquisition of the PiD Group through SGS in September 2008. With this transaction, SGS profited from the expertise of a leading Brazilian group specialising in valve calibration, maintenance, electrical assembly, testing, training and consultancy activities.

Construction Supervision is necessary to ensure that the work undertaken by many parties is carried out in accordance with the design and specification requirements, overseeing the safety of works, and when required, monitoring the costs. SGS coordinates the construction activities of all the professional fields including but not limited to civil and construction works, mechanical and pipe systems, electricity and control.

SGS has specialised human resources and control procedures available that allow the specific necessities in each project to be covered, controlling all details of the project and work development, assuring the compliance of basic quality requirements as well as the established standards of the construction industry.

SGS IS THE GLOBAL LEADER AND INNOVATOR IN INSPECTION, VERIFICATION, TESTING AND CERTIFICATION SERVICES. FOUNDED IN 1878, SGS IS RECOGNISED AS THE GLOBAL BENCHMARK IN QUALITY AND INTEGRITY. WITH MORE THAN 64,000 EMPLOYEES, SGS OPERATES A NETWORK OF OVER 1,250 OFFICES AND LABORATORIES AROUND THE WORLD.