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Midlands based Rayden Engineering latest big order tops its 30th anniversary celebrations



Pictured above: Welding of 18" diameter pipework at Braishfield AGI near Romsey 2009

AN Ilkeston engineering firm which has been celebrating its 30th anniversary is ending the year on a high note by winning the second biggest contract in its history.

Rayden Engineering has just won a seven figure order, its biggest this year, from Scotia Gas Networks for work at Farningham in Kent to build a gas handling facility that will serve the south and south east of England.

This will include everything from excavating, installing the pipework, re-instating the

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Work will start on January 4 and last a year. It will include setting up a small field campus with temporary buildings for administration, storage and workers' welfare.

The contract is eclipsed only by another from Scotia Gas Networks for a similar plant at Hardwick in Buckinghamshire which finished in August last year after three years.

"Although we were satisfied with the value of our order book for 2010 winning the Farningham contract is the icing on the cake for us in this, our 30th anniversary year," said Rayden's managing director Richard Hayden, a former welder who set up the firm.

It was started to provide a specialist high-pressure pipe welding and fabrication service which has diversified over the years into a multi-disciplined company.

This includes installing pipework from initial greenfield stage to final re-instatement, repairing, maintenance and modifications to live gas installations.

The company has only just finished a critical contract in Algeria, diverting a 40 inch diameter pipeline. Over the years it has undertaken projects in Ireland, Portugal, Turkey, Russia, Georgia and Gabon.



Pictured above: Rayden Transport loading gas pressure reduction unit manufactured at Ilkeston depot 2009

Current work includes a project at Romsey, Hampshire, similar to that at Farningham, gas pipeline work in Cumbria for United Utilities, work on aviation fuel pipelines and storage facilities for military and civil air bases across the UK, and providing a pipeline maintenance service to National Grid Pipeline Maintenance Centres throughout the British Isles, something it has done for 22 years.

The company is also doing large bore fabrication projects for Elster-Instromet, including pressure testing, inspection, and painting, at its premises in Wentworth Street, Ilkeston, its home of 12 years.

The majority of its 100-strong workforce of highly-skilled fitters, fabricators, technicians, welders, machine operators, carpenters, steel fixers, and concrete finishers are engaged in mechanical and civil engineering work countrywide.

Many have worked for the company for a large number of years and helped it achieve UKAS accreditation to ISO 9001 14001 and 18001 for quality, environmental and health and safety management.

"It's being tough-going at times, but I have enjoyed every minute," said Richard. "Our main focus is to look after our customers and our employees - and this has paid dividends."

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