

onshore coating in the country is polyethylene. The average pipeline lifespan is 33 years and around 34 % of oil trunklines are over 30 years old, which shows the potential for market growth. Dow Hyperlast has a new closed loop portable continuous mixing plant to generate glass syntactic polyurethane

on site. The company claims that this gives the fastest line pipe insulation in the world. The system is being used in the Gumusut-Kakap project of Sabah Shell Petroleum Company. Many pipelines are ageing. Berry Plastics has studied the durability of coatings. The company compared 3-layer PE, 3-layer

PP, liquid epoxy, FBE, polyurethane, cold applied tapes and heat shrinkable sleeves, using extended periods of hot water immersion (HWI). In 1987 Shell used 120 day HWI testing. The water should be heated to the maximum pipe operating temperature. It is a useful method of testing coating performance.

The third AMI international conference on Pipeline Coating, will be held 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> February 2011 in Vienna, Austria. Offers of papers should be sent to Dr. Sally Humphreys (Email: sh@amiplastics.com) before 6<sup>th</sup> August 2010.

## WORLD OF POLYUREA

# CASE Study “The Pearl beside the lake”

In the town of Spittal, along the south bank of the Millstätter Lake (Carinthia, Austria) a new Lido-Restaurant is under construction. Designed by the famous architect Hans Hollein, this building is part of a five piece ensemble called “Artists-In-Residence”, a project of the Soravia group.

For 2 years people made do with a small, temporary kiosk at the Lido. This summer the new restaurant, distinguished by its special architecture, should open its doors. In the original plans, this gourmet restaurant, designed in the shape of a bisected frustum, was to be completely covered with aluminum, specially treated to achieve a rough, matt surface that would shimmer. Despite the extensive experience of

the builder Jakob Frohner, this result would have required development of a completely new technology which would have stretched the budget of Euro 350,000 – 400,000 too far. The original construction plans for the restaurant had already been re-dimensioned by the authorities on price grounds, the indoor area was kept small, and the terrace outside designed to offer space for 100 guests. As part of the downsizing, a window on the north side was suddenly lost. As the outer shell was still missing, a 4 x 1.7 metre window could be cut out easily. The aluminium shell would have cost another 120,000 – 130,000 Euro additional and problems with vertical connections couldn't be solved.

A new method for covering the building had to be found. The architect specified the following requirements:

- A moisture proof system without any seams – sprayed on 3-layered plywood with insulation underneath
- the roof skin to be a combination of colour – silver/chrome – with high gloss and 100 % color and UV stable.
- A surface that reflects both sunshine and artificial light

Minimum 10 years life warranty The Villacher company Hercules GmbH offered a special coating technology for 50,000 Euro – consequently the lido restaurant will be “sprayed”. Hubert Tomz, CEO of Hercules GmbH: “This coating system is an innovative high-gloss material, which

is sprayed on. At the request of the architect Hollein, a special glass-dust will be incorporated in the liquid system, so that the building will glimmer in the sunshine.”

Work on the shell should have started on 14<sup>th</sup> of June. But due to continuous rain and chaos at the construction side – “the carpenters didn't do as they were asked. Seven people have been dismissed,” explained Hubert Tomz indignant. He and Dudley Primeaux, who had flown in specially for this application, were snookered at the time of our editorial deadline. Thank goodness – the 2010 football world cup was on TV.

So we will continue our CASE study in September.

