

Case Study: Specialist support for major European energy group

Specialist engineering consultancy RVA Group was appointed by EDP, one of Europe's major energy operators, to provide project management assistance and technical advice during their vast demolition and site clearance project in Portugal.

As the UK's leading expert in large scale decommissioning, decontamination, dismantling and demolition projects, RVA supported EDP throughout the decommissioning and demolition of its 7-hectare power plant in Barreiro, Portugal.

Initially, RVA already helped EDP prepare a detailed project specification and tender documentation, before playing a key role in the contractor selection programme.

Following the appointment of a contractor, RVA was available to work with EDP, providing specialist project management support and technical advice as required throughout the programme of works.



Commenting on the project, RVA's managing director Richard Vann says: "Since our formation in 1992, RVA's reputation for technical excellence has become well-established throughout the UK. However our strategy has always been to take our experience to an international market and following recent projects in France, Hong Kong and Turkmenistan, we are delighted to be working with EDP in Portugal.

"To have been approached by a prestigious European client such as EDP reinforces our growing presence in the international marketplace and further strengthens our strategy for developing our worldwide client base."



The project included the demolition of several large structures comprising a 1,000m oil and steam pipeline, engine room, boiler, steam turbines, pumping station and two on-site reservoir tanks, each measuring 7,500m³.

"A large-scale project of this nature requires a significant amount of planning. EDP has acknowledged the need to carry out the work to the highest standards, with Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) management a priority. They recognised that to do this, they need the specialist experience and assistance that RVA can provide," Richard Vann adds.

The plant – which operated from 1977 to 2009 – was EDP's largest oil fired thermal cogeneration power plant and one of the oldest in the group's extensive portfolio. The old power station has already been replaced by a modern CHP (combined heating and power) plant on the same site, allowing the group to produce cleaner, more environmentally-friendly energy.

EDP's engineering coordinator for D&D projects Antonio Luis Alfonso explains why EDP selected RVA for this project: "EDP needed someone with extensive experience and expertise on demolition projects of power plants.

"From a selection of several possible candidates RVA was clearly the most adequate choice. Its core business is supplying consulting services to companies who have little or no experience in D&D projects – precisely what EDP was looking for."