

Girls' Day at the Römerbrücke CHP plant:

Tour of the plant and quiz - Hands on activities in the workshops - Visit by Secretary of State Dr. Susanne Reichrath

The Römerbrücke CHP plant is inviting 30 girls to its Girls' Day event entitled *Exciting Jobs – Diverse Technology*. In 2008, Electrabel (SUEZ) is getting involved in the nationwide *Girls' Day: Future Prospects for Girls* initiative for the first time: "We want to encourage women to explore careers in fields that have a future – as well as demonstrate that technology can be a lot of fun," says Arno Bux, Member of the Management Board of Electrabel Deutschland.

Some 10.9% of the workforce at Electrabel Saarland (which operates the Römerbrücke plant) are apprentices, a figure that is well above the sectoral average of 7.6% (source: BDEW). "Saarbrücken's future as a key energy hub depends on skilled staff," added Arno Bux.

An exciting and hands-on event

Girls attending two local schools – the *Willi-Graf Gymnasium* in Saarbrücken and the *Robert-Schumann-Schule* in Großrosseln-Emmersweiler – will have the chance to take part in a quiz at the plant and will be able to take a behind-the-scenes look at the ingenious technology used. Observation will be the order of the day and there will also be a prize for one lucky pupil able to answer a short set of questions.

The girls will also be able to put their practical skills to the test in the electronics and mechanics workshops. The former is normally used by mechatronics engineers to record electrical readings but during the Girls' Day event the pupils will be able to build their own extension cable. The cables will be tested and authentic inspection tags issued. They will also be able to try their hand at sawing and filing in the mechanics workshop to give them an insight into another typical area of the work performed by mechatronics engineers. They will be able try out the activity on specially provided materials and create their own pendants and candle holders to take home. There will also be an opportunity to test out the plant's thermal imaging camera, which is used to detect when any of the plant's units are overheating. "We will have achieved our goal if some of the girls perhaps discover a career with us in which women are still under-represented," says Joachim Morsch, chairman of the Electrabel Saarland GmbH board.

Dr. Susanne Reichrath, Secretary of State with the department for training, the family, women and culture has also agreed to take part in a discussion on women in male-dominated occupations with two of the company's female engineers.

Electrabel: an attractive employer

A total of 41.6% of Electrabel's staff in Germany are currently women. The company seeks to promote family life and supports all staff, male and female, by offering flexible working hours and part-time work.

Women receive special support within the SUEZ Group. The latter established a European working group which has come up with many ideas as to how to create a more level playing field for men and women.

Electrabel is currently training six apprentices at the Römerbrücke plant to become mechatronics engineers. The training is provided in partnership with *RAG Bildung Saar GmbH* and covers mechanics and electrical engineering and electronics as well as control engineering and information technology. During their training, the apprentices spend time in all the various workshops – mechanics, electrical engineering and measurement and control systems – and they gain an insight into how these various departments operate.

The Römerbrücke CHP plant is also training 17 staff hired by Electrabel for its future power stations in northern Germany. Electrabel is to invest in a coal-fired power station in the north of the country and is therefore looking for skilled individuals with experience of working with metals or electronics and who would be interested in going on to train as power plant operators. We are also on the lookout for trained and experienced power plant operators, power plant supervisors and engineering graduates to follow a two-year traineeship to join the new power stations at middle-management level.

In 2008, Electrabel has seven apprenticeships available at locations across Germany, from those three are at the power plant Römerbrücke itself.

Electrabel, a European provider of comprehensive and tailor-made energy solutions

Electrabel is one of Europe's frontrunners in the energy sector and leader on the Benelux market. It responds to the opportunities presented by the deregulation of the electricity and natural gas market by developing its offer of energy products and services throughout Europe. In doing so it is able to combine high quality with close support for each customer, drawing on a network of commercial subsidiaries and partnerships with local operators. Electrabel is currently progressing towards its objective to double its 1999 electricity sales volumes by 2004.

The company manages a diversified range of generating facilities totalling more than 26 000 MW, and is active in trading on all the European energy markets. Furthermore, in Belgium it manages electricity and natural gas distribution networks, on behalf of distribution system operators.

Electrabel is part of SUEZ, an international energy and services company.

In Germany, Electrabel sells electricity, natural gas and energy products and services, both directly for industrial companies and indirectly to small and middle-sized companies and residential customers. The company is also active in electricity generation. Furthermore, Electrabel trades electricity and natural gas on the German energy exchanges.

Energy SaarLorLux, a joint venture of Electrabel and Stadtwerke Saarbrücken, supplies electricity, natural gas and heat.

Through its partnership with Stadtwerke Gera, Electrabel is active in the generation, distribution and sale of electricity, natural gas and heat in Gera.

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