International®

INTERFINE 1080

TURNS HEADS AT CHEMICAL PLANT

Plant maintenance is a vital part of an industrial facility's operations yet typically represents a fairly small portion of a plant's overall budget. However, a single coatings failure that compromises worker safety, equipment protection, or a plant's aesthetics, can have costly repercussions.

While conducting a routine maintenance inspection of the outdoor hydrant piping system of a major chemical plant in Japan during 2013, the Maintenance Manager for the plant discovered that the entire piping system would have to be recoated – again. Constant exposure to the sun and weather conditions of the piping system, in addition to rocks hitting the complex system of pipework during grass cutting, caused excessive fading and pitting to the hydrant system's brilliant red finish. Although the existing coatings system was relatively inexpensive, the labor costs associated with the recoating work every two years were enormous.

Extreme makeover

The Maintenance Manager immediately began seeking a more robust and longer-lasting coating option. Representing AkzoNobel's International® brand of protective coating products was Protective Coatings Sales Manager for Japan and Engineering Sales and the Technical Service Manager who met with the plant's Maintenance Manager to assess the damages and provide technical guidance. Since fading and durability were the primary concerns, the team recommended AkzoNobel's International® protective coating polysiloxane topcoat, Interfine® 1080. The topcoat is formulated for superior UV protection, high gloss color retention and flexibility. Paired with primers also from the International® range, the coatings system would provide a strong and aesthetically attractive maintenance solution for the chemical plant.

According to the Sales Manager, **"Interfine 1080 was an ideal choice because it's a single pack product, which is both very easy to apply and highly durable. This means lower costs to apply, while actually extending the maintenance lifecycle for more than 10 years."**

Lasting beauty

Interplus® 356 primer was applied by skilled applicators to the hydrant system's carbon steel piping and Intergard® 361 to the galvanized steel portions. Interfine 1080 was then spray-applied over both primers. In all, 6,400L (1,408gal) of International® protective coatings were used to restore the structural steel to its former glory and the hydrant system's glossy red luster. Plant owners were so pleased with the results; the second phase of recoating work was awarded in April 2014 and will continue over the next five years throughout the plant as part of a planned maintenance schedule.

"Fire Office Inspectors who make regular visits to the plant look carefully at the condition and beauty of the facility's overall maintenance," said the plant's Maintenance Manager **"Now that all fading and damage to the hydrant piping have been eliminated, they have confidence that the entire facility is in top shape."**

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