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HCG Group Tata Steel
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On the site of Tata Steel Velsen, The Netherlands, stands a gas container, which plays a vital role within the production process. It spans 50m in diameter, 100m in height and has a staggering internal capacity of 175,000m³. Tata Steel sees the maintenance of this huge gas container as high priority, not only due to the vital functional role it plays on the Tata Steel site, but also as a result of the high visual impact it poses upon its surroundings.

Back in 1993, the large gas container was coated with two coats of AkzoNobel's Interzone® 954. Some 18 years later in 2011, Tata Steel began planning a major maintenance project to bring the container back to its original state. However, due to the high application costs associated with refurbishment of such a gigantic structure, the feasibility of this maintenance project was left in doubt. That was until HCG Group made an alternative proposal to Tata Steel to apply a system of International® coatings by utilising a combination of cherry pickers and rope access to permit applicators access to all external areas of the container.

HCG Group were chosen by Tata Steel to work in conjunction with AkzoNobel to carry out the maintenance project as a result of their alternative application proposal, in which the entire surface was first prepared using a high-pressure hot water spray. Following surface preparation, all rust and any defects that were present were removed to an St3 level of cleanliness. Fast return to service was essential to the customer given the importance of the vessel within the production process. This alongside the need for high quality aesthetics led Tata Steel to choose a specification put forward by AkzoNobel, which consisted of three layers of Interplus® 356 and a single coat of Interthane® 990.

This close working relationship combined with a solution based approach to the project helped form a strong and lasting relationship between HCG Group and AkzoNobel, ensuring a high quality of coatings application.