



EXPERTS IN TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

ZUE Capital Group from Krakow is one of the Poland's leading players in the construction industry, focused on public transport infrastructure. In 2016 it will celebrate its 25th anniversary. Dariusz Balcerzyk reports.

The company operates as a general contractor. Its main scope of activity is designing and delivering comprehensive railway constructions. It also executes the entire accompanying infrastructure including earth works, railway beds and drainage systems and station building.

ZUE CG provides complete services in terms of the construction and modernisation of powering systems for tram line infrastructure, as well as the construction and modernisation of the tram and train catenary network. The company's areas of interest include the provision of services for the current maintenance of city infrastructure systems (tracks, catenary, powering systems, lighting). In addition, ZUE CG delivers construction services for complete electric networks at a low, medium and high voltage level.

"Next year, ZUE SA will celebrate its 25th anniversary. A quarter of a century on the market can attest to our position. I must

admit that for me, a founder of the company, this is an important moment. When I decided to open my own business I had a vision of its development, but this is the market that always verifies each vision. The strong position that ZUE maintains in the tram and railway infrastructure market, and in the energy infrastructure market, allows me to look back at the company's history with satisfaction," says Mr Wieslaw Nowak, the company's chairman of the board and general director.

25 years of development

ZUE was founded by Mr Nowak in 1991. Initially, the company operated in the electronics and radio communication industry in the Krakow area. The extension of its activities into the field of power electronics, energy and traction works took place in 1994. Two years later, ZUE established a cooperation with SIEMENS AG, based in ▷





Vienna. As a result, new technologies (such as modern WS90E tram driver switches) have been introduced into the Polish market. In 1997, ZUE saw its first major success with the design and construction of a catenary section made entirely using Western technology. ZUE was the first company in Poland to accomplish such a task.

Following this, the company built Poland's first underground power supply substation for tramways and received a five-year contract to operate the tram traction power supply system in Krakow. In 2000–2001, Mr Nowak acquired shares in a track and road maintenance company.

In 2014 the company entered a new business segment: the design and construction of power transmission lines. Together with its Croatian partner, ZUE carried out the construction of a 400 kV line with a total contract value of PLN 469 million (more than €100 million). In the same year, ZUE and its Slovakian partner acquired a contract in Kosice, Slovakia, worth more than €33 million.

Today, ZUE CG consists of four companies: ZUE SA, the parent company; Biuro Projektow Komunikacyjnych (Communication Design Office) in Poznan; Railway Technology International Germany GmbH, and Railway gft Polska. Mr Nowak owns 62.53 per cent of ZUE's shares, with the remaining 37.47 per cent being held by stock market investors. In 2014 the ZUE Group's revenues exceeded PLN 644.1 million (€157 million). Currently, the group employs more than 900 people and carries out orders throughout the entire country.

"For many years, ZUE has provided top-notch services, taking care of the safety of employees and customers as well as reducing the environmental impact of its activities to the greatest possible extent. This has been confirmed by the obtaining of relevant certificates: ISO 9001 in 1999, ISO 18001 in 2003, ISO 14001 in 2006 and OHSAS 18001:2007," points out Mr Nowak.

New visual identification

"Owing to the fact that the group has recently opened a new chapter in its operations, we have decided to refresh our brand. In December 2013 we combined two largest entities within ZUE – PRK Krakow SA and ZUE SA – thus consolidating our infrastructure execution capabilities. In May 2015, a similar process has taken place in our design offices. By acquiring a majority stake in Railway gft Poland we have expanded the scope of our services in the rail manufacturing sector. We own a company in Germany and are currently establishing another one in Africa. As a group we have therefore entered a period of dynamic growth; but for our employees and customers it should be clear that we remain the same, reliable business partner.

"The new logo, common to all companies within ZUE CG, aims to support the process of integration that has occurred between them. The quality of our company's services should be reflected in the visual identification of the group. We also would like to send a strong message to our partners and contractors that ZUE is developing. Based on the synergy potential we will continue to strengthen our position in the market, and actively strive towards reaching new areas," says Mr Nowak. □

Visit: www.grupazue.pl

