

Revolutionary pipeline extrusion concept

Publicly listed Tubi Group uniquely offers a high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipeline extrusion plant that is truly mobile: it is fitted into shipping containers and can be moved to produce pipe anywhere in 72 hours plus travel time, saving money while reducing emissions and the number of worker safety incidents. Particularly for large-scale projects, a mobile HDPE extrusion plant offers a range of benefits according to Wes Long, the Chief Operating Officer for the Tubi Group. “In the current pandemic, many pipe manufacturers in the USA are located in permanent facilities in a down market, some operating at just 10 percent of capacity. We can easily move our plants where needed, and continue to operate at 100% capacity.”

Tubi’s mobile HDPE pipeline concept is the brainchild of Marcello Russo, their founder and CEO. His father had a big PE pipe factory in Australia. Russo wanted to be in that business, too, but wanted to do things differently. He came up with the revolutionary mobile concept which is now patented and proprietary to Tubi. The company has acquired extrusion technology from battenfeld-cincinatti, the Germany-based manufacturer who according to Mr. Long are globally the best in their field.

In Mr. Long’s view, their mobile HDPE extrusion plant offers a range of benefits. The plant accommodates longer pipe lengths, which reduces the number of welds (by up to 95%) needed to join pipes across a pipeline network. Fewer welds reduce both labour and equipment costs, whilst reducing time required to complete pipeline builds. Fewer welds also improve pipe network durability as welds are one of the more common parts where breaks occur. As an on-site mobile plant does not have to take into account that pipes have to be transported, Tubi

can produce HDPE pipes in any lengths up to 305m (1000 ft) in straight pipe lengths or up to 1.6 km (1 mile) coiled on reels/drums. That said, the extrusion capability of Tubi’s plant is not limited to making it mobile and can produce HDPE pipe to all specs offered by conventional fixed plant manufacturers.

While many pipe manufacturers in the US have been hit hard by COVID-19, Tubi has moved two plants to Florida to serve Mosaic, the world’s largest crop nutrition company, and other customers in the region, where no other pipe manufacturers have a presence. Tubi’s Odessa, Texas-based plant will be moved to Arizona to serve the mining industry in the Southwestern United States, which is expected to recover ahead of the oil and gas industry. “We will move to locations anywhere where producing pipe comes with strategic, freight, and market advantages,” he adds.

He emphasises again that Tubi’s plants offer exceptional quality. “Tubi has the latest Extrusion technology from battenfeld, and new inline pipe inspection technology from Sikora. Not a single other pipe manufacturer in the US has this high quality capability. This is also why we have unbelievable growth potential. As our country is still suffering from this pandemic, Tubi is in a strong position to use technology to do things better and smarter.”





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