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**S&B**

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## The crisis and the challenges of the new year

Along with his best wishes for 2009, during the traditional pie-cutting ceremony for the New Year (see p. 14), S&B Group's CEO **Efthimios Vidalis** went on to take a retrospective view of the preceding year and to make a detailed account of the international financial crisis and the challenges and difficulties ahead, while the storm is already upon us:

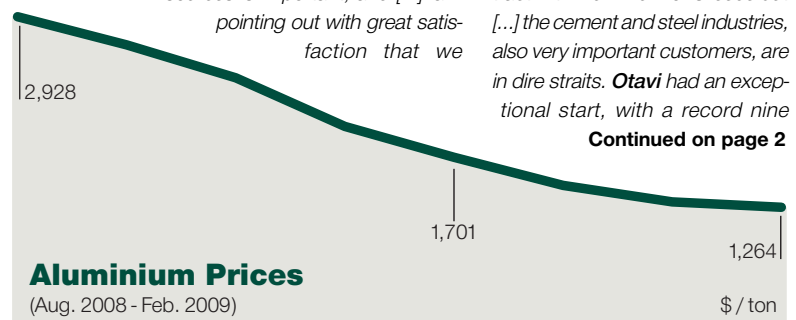
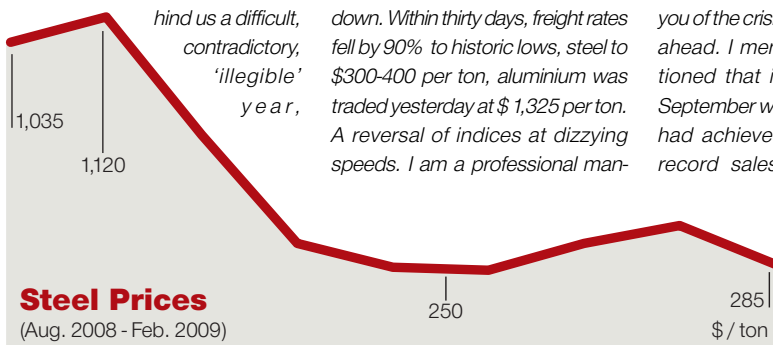
"... We just left behind us a difficult, contradictory, 'illegible' year,

and I refer here to the industrial minerals, with violent fluctuations of prices, products and volumes. During the first semester, energy prices were catapulted to great heights, oil reached \$ 150 dollars/barrel, freight rates went dramatically up, steel reached almost \$ 1,200 per ton. Aluminium surpassed \$ 2,500 per ton and then, suddenly, during the last quarter, everything came upside-down. Within thirty days, freight rates fell by 90% to historic lows, steel to \$300-400 per ton, aluminium was traded yesterday at \$ 1,325 per ton. A reversal of indices at dizzying speeds. I am a professional manager for many years, almost thirty, and I cannot remember such fluctuations, such dramatic changes within such a short time span. This means that during the first nine months of 2008, our costs increased significantly and our margins shrunk. By the end of the year we were still selling high-cost stock but our sales started to decrease. In October, I sent a letter informing you of the crisis ahead. I mentioned that in September we had achieved record sales.

This was also the case in October, compared to the same month a year ago. Yet, since November past, cut downs in our customers' production is reflected to our volumes with significant decrease in our sales [...]. I consider 2008 an important year in which we made progress and achieved a lot of important things before we entered the crisis. The fact that we focused on natural resources is important, and [...] am pointing out with great satisfaction that we

achieved our reorganization in time and early on, during the first quarter, and this showed results very soon, thus proving that our organization is strong. I will proceed to review, briefly, the developments per Division [...] We continue to rationalize and optimize the **Bauxite** Division where we are experiencing a contradiction: our markets are under pressure and, yes, we have a contract with Aluminium of Greece but [...] the cement and steel industries, also very important customers, are in dire straits. **Otavi** had an exceptional start, with a record nine

Continued on page 2



View of the plant in Waterloo

## S&B expands its activities in the US

In early 2008 the Bentonite Division of S&B Industrial Minerals S.A. expanded its activities in the United States acquiring a mine of calcined bentonite and a drying and grinding plant from **Unimin Corporation** in Aberdeen, Mississippi. It is an open-pit mine of sedimentary calcined bentonite. Mining rights cover an area of 659 acres. The plant comprises a mobile shredder, a rotary dryer of a capacity of 45-50 tons per hour, two grinding

mills of a capacity of 28 and 15 tons per hour, a packing unit, loading installations for cargo vehicles and wagon-trains, as well as silos. The plant started its operation in October 2008, in cooperation with the **BASF** company.

**Michalis G. Papatirou**, Mining Manager, Bentonite Division, Milos

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**"Safe Cargo 2008" seminar in Germany**

p. 10

**Our colleague Christos Dedeloudis, the inventor**

p. 16

Business

# S&B expands its activities in the US

Continued from page 1

In February of 2009, S&B also acquired the Waterloo, Iowa foundry bentonite blending plant assets of the Halliburton subsidiary **Bentonite Performance Minerals (BPM)**.

As part of this strategic move, S&B takes on the marketing of *National Standard Sodium Bentonite*, *Hydrobond*, *PetroBond*, *Carben*, and *Baramix* products sold to foundry customers in North America. The companies have also entered into a concurrent supply agreement for the purchase of bulk bentonite for S&B's foundry operations and a tolling agreement for the use of BPM's Colony, Wyoming blending facilities.

The effective date of the transaction is February 2nd, 2009.

**Rob Steele**, as Foundry N.A. Business Unit Manager, will be integrating and managing the new business. The Waterloo plant falls under the responsibility of **Spyros Tzintzos**, Downstream Operations Manager.

Following the successful integra-

tion of the **Hill & Griffith** premix business and the start-up of the bulk bentonite processing plant in Aberdeen, Mississippi, in 2008, this transaction extends our distribution capability in North America and enables us to reach a larger number of foundries, offering them our molding sand know-how and a broad portfolio of bentonites and blends, now enlarged with the addition of BPM products.

Correspondence by **Yanni Paniaras**, *Bentonite Division General Manager*

In March of 2008 **Airlite Inc.** was incorporated into the North America BU of S&B's Perlite Division. Airlite Inc. is a perlite expander based in Vero Beach, Florida, serving the South East NA Market with expanded perlite for horticultural and construction applications.

This is the first downstream perlite activity of the NA BU connecting us directly with the end users. With this

strategic move we come one step closer to the end markets, strengthening our position and capturing the added value of perlite. It is also giving us a local presence for better understanding geographical markets trends and customer needs.

Correspondence by **Bill Mihalopoulos**, *North America BU, Perlite Division*

On December 29, 2008, **Stollberg** acquired **The Bertelsen Company Inc.**, also known as **Thermocel**, a U.S. producer of exothermic hot-top compounds which are used in the steel industry when ingots are cast.

This casting technology is applied for casting special steel grades with high contents of ferrous alloys like chromium, molybdenum, niobium, vanadium etc., which cannot be produced via the continuous casting process. The products are mechanically blended like our powder shape mold and ingot fluxes, but they contain raw materials that



The Airlite plant



Panoramic view of the plant in Aberdeen

lead to an exothermic reaction, once the materials are applied to the liquid steel in the ingot. This helps to avoid the cavity formation in the ingots and to increase the

yield of the ingot casting process.

Correspondence by **Dirk Steinkemper**, *Executive Vice President, Stollberg Inc., Niagara Falls, N.Y.*

# The crisis and the challenges of the new year

Continued from page 1

months and improved profitability but, at the end of the year, all of a sudden, the markets applied the brakes there too, and we are struggling to reduce our substantial inventory. [...] In the **Bentonite Division**, a typical example of volatility, we had a record month in October – with the largest volume ever invoiced – and in December we had the lowest sales volume since 2004! On the other hand, we started production at two new sites, in Biga in order to supply our foundry clients in Turkey and in Aberdeen in the United States. In the **Perlite Division**, we undoubtedly suffered. In raw perlite, due to the construction industry crisis in America [...]. In expanded perlite, because of a new competitor in Greece, we had to

fight a war with reduced prices during a bear market. The same is true in Spain, where we have been forced to reduce production and shifts. In the **Stollberg Division**, which had yet another record year, the end of 2008 was tough. The American steel industry is performing at 47% of capacity – as compared to 90% the year before! The same is true in Europe, definitely in Russia and Eastern Europe, areas where we exported a large number of Stollberg-Germany products, and, of course, the same is true in China, too [...]. In 2009, we will need strong effort, team-work and sacrifices in order to overcome the hardships of the international environment. But the storm is already upon us. We have adapted to a large

degree to the circumstances prevailing at the end of last year, we have adjusted our vision of the future to current conditions. Yet the effort does not stop here; we need to reevaluate costly practices, bad habits and, in general, to draw out and acknowledge all positive elements through this process [...]. The course for readjustments has been set and I can only hope that the need for more drastic ones will not arise. Our expectations and plans aim to preserve the infrastructure supporting our production capacity as a whole, so that we can grow again. To maintain all our significant innovative initiatives in all Divisions and to continue exploring acquisitions, though of a different kind. Inexpensive, smaller and,

above all, adapted to our immediate business goals, namely those that will help our Divisions here and now. Within this framework, it is imperative that we continue our work with team spirit, method and dedication to our values. The crisis will end sooner or later, and we have to be ready to continue our course of development and the realization of our vision, which is to make S&B one of the leading industrial minerals companies in the world [...]. Knowing the passion, the resilience, the intelligence and professionalism that mark our organization, I am certain of the continuation and the acceleration of our dynamic development upon the first signs of recovery in the global financial environment".



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## S&B sponsors Ankiros Exhibition 2008 in Turkey

**Ankiros** is the second largest foundry exhibition event in Europe, after GIFA, and takes place every two years. All major manufacturers and suppliers of equipment and consumables take part.

The 2008 edition of *Ankiros* was held in Istanbul, Turkey during 16-19 October; 786 companies from 38 countries participated. **S&B Industrial Minerals**, one of the exhibition's sponsors, was represented by **Didier Legrand**, **Nick Richardson** and **Sandrine Cornet** of **S&B Industrial Minerals S.A.R.L.** and **Mert Meriç** of **S&B Endüstriyel Mineraller A.Ş.** Over the course of the four-day event more than 14,000 visitors, a large number of whom hailed from the Middle East, India and China, attended the exhibition. During the opening ceremony Mr. Legrand was presented by the organizers with an honorary

plaque for S&B's sponsorship. *Ankiros* proved the ideal opportunity for S&B to present its project in Turkey and for its representatives to inform the numerous visitors about the start-up, before the end of 2008, of a bentonite plant in Karabiga which will provide the local industry with bentonite from Milos island, Greece. Mr. Richardson gave a presentation on *The Role and Importance of Using Only High-Quality Green Sand Moulding Additives to Ensure the Consistent Production of High-Quality, Defect-Free Castings*.

Apart from the exhibition itself, a full-event program was planned with numerous presentations and a very enjoyable special "Foundryman's Night" with traditional dancing and local cuisine. On the evening of 18 October, S&B hosted a dinner for the customers

of the Turkish foundries, attended by several eminent members of **Tudoksad**, the Turkish Foundry Association.

Correspondence by **Nick Richardson**, Applications Technology Specialist, S&B Industrial Minerals S.A.R.L.



S&B hosted a dinner for the customers of many local foundries



Mr. Legrand was presented by the organizers with an honorary plaque for S&B's sponsorship

## S&B confronting the global financial crisis

The impact of the global financial crisis upon the industrial sectors that **S&B Industrial Minerals** serves became visible by its production units around the world before the beginning of the new year.

Since October 2008, when S&B's CEO **Efthimios Vidalis** addressed a relevant written message to all S&B employees, he has been systematically pointing out, on every given occasion (Christmas and New Year's events, executive meetings), the prospects of the current year, the challenges that these entail as well as the need for constant briefing, communication, teamwork and coordinated efforts to hedge against the international crisis. By the end of 2008, measures related to the reduction of our operational cost were taken at different S&B sites, such as cut-back of overtime work, recruitment

freezing, non-renewal of fixed-term employment contracts, temporary suspension of production units during the holiday season in combination with exhaustion of any leave remainders.

Starting 2009 and with the first indications of January, the need for more drastic cost-cutting measures came clearly into sight. Initial actions affecting S&B personnel have already been put in track. Such cases are the short-time work programs already applied since the beginning of the year in the production units of **Stollberg** in France, Germany, and America, struck by the production cuts by 30%-70% in the steel industries that they serve. Also, the bentonite plants in Germany, France and the US have gradually entered into reduced shifts programs or short-time work schedules. Limited staff

reduction in S&B production units in Spain, Sardinia and Ritsona, Greece, has also been effected, while our personnel in Georgia, FSU, has been put in suspension. The management of each of our Product Divisions, in cooperation with the local HR Departments, continue to investigate all possible options to reduce operational costs, taking into account "the bigger benefit with the lesser cost" possible in productivity and motivation, so that we can readily recover as soon as the crisis is over.

Typical example of timely and coordinated action has been the short-time work agreement between the management and the workers' committee of **Stollberg**, Germany. Hereunder is an excerpt from the correspondence by our colleague **Anke Fischer-Lohrengel**:

"The **Stollberg** Division proceeded immediately and with consistency to cost-reduction plans, concerning also payroll costs. Still, before the turning of the year the loan workers contracts were gradually terminated, overtime work was reduced to the absolutely necessary and the permanent staff took a two-week mandatory holiday.

The Divisional Management and the Workers' Committee confirmed once again their mutual trust and good will to cooperate through the long lasting crisis. It was, thus, decided in common, as a first temporary measure, to reduce the weekly working hours for a six-month period starting February 1<sup>st</sup> from 38 to 24, at the **Oberhausen** facilities. According to this common agreement, there will be no dismissals due to company reasons until July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009.

Both 'partners' of the common agreement are convinced to have made the correct decision in order to secure the site's flexibility to survive the crisis, in prospect of the much-desired turning-point of the world economy.

Predictions about whether or not the short-time work agreement will be extended further than the six-month period are almost impossible to be made. Even **Stollberg's** main customers are restrained in their comments about the development of their businesses beyond the present status. **Stollberg** will continue to monitor the effects of the financial and economic crisis. One thing is for certain: as soon as the order books allow for it, short-time work will be recalled. Considering the demand for steel internationally, this should only be a matter of time."

## SEV organizes conference on Sustainable Development and Climate Change

Sir Nicholas Stern was the keynote speaker

A conference on “Sustainable Development and Climate Change” was organized on 26 November 2008 by SEV, the **Hellenic Federation of Enterprises**, at the **Megaron Moussikis**, the Athens Concert Hall. The keynote speaker was the British economist and academician **Sir Nicholas Stern** who became widely known all over the world as the author of the so-called *Stern Review*, a 700-page-long report on the consequences of climate change on the world economy, that was published two years ago. Representatives of the political class, the business community, the academic community and the Civil Society were present at the conference that was organized in conjunction with the new Megaron Plus programme of the Athens Concert Hall, sponsored by the **Lambrakis Foundation**. **Dimitris Daskalopoulos**, the

Chairman of SEV, presented Sir Nicholas and pointed out that the *Stern Review* makes it patently obvious that the aim of sustainable development must be adopted by the international community; sustainable development is based on the concept that environment, development and social cohesion are three main interdependent areas that must be dealt with simultaneously. Mr. Daskalopoulos pointed out that SEV is in the forefront of an initiative to persuade the private sector, the most dynamic and pioneering segment of Greek society, to adopt the philosophy and goals of sustainable development. The Federation will support with every means available any initiative put forward by the government, the political parties and Civil Society aiming at Greece’s participation in the war against climate change and environmental deteri-

oration while preserving its economy’s developmental dynamics. Mr. Stern referred to “A new Global Deal on Climate Change and the Role of Business” and emphasized that today we know that the cost of doing nothing and of being late at responding to climate change is far greater than the cost of any intervention we might undertake. He noted that the success of the world summit to be held in Copenhagen in December 2009 and the signing of an international agreement would be an extremely important chance for achieving the goal of world environmental, energy and economic safety. He also acknowledged the important role of modern companies and called upon them to analyze carefully the dangers and opportunities that come up and to assume a leading role in both information and policy making. He referred to the interna-

tional financial crisis and pointed out that we both can and must deal with simultaneously the two crises, the economic and the ecological. There followed a very interesting and fruitful discussion on the strategies we must develop and the direction of our actions vis-à-vis the environmental challenges that lie ahead; participants included **Efthimios Vidalis**, chairman of the **SEV Council on Sustainable Development** and CEO of **S&B Industrial Minerals S.A.**, academician and University of Athens professor **Christos Zerefos**, chairman of the **Athens Observatory**, **Dimitris Karavellas**, director of **WWF Hellas** and **Dimitris Papalexopoulos**, CEO of **Titan Cement S.A.** Mr. Vidalis opened the debate by pointing out that the *Stern Review* determines three main elements in applying a successful policy on

greenhouse gas reduction: a) the pricing of greenhouse gas emissions (taxation, emission rights, regulation), b) the development of environmental-friendly technologies, and c) changing of attitudes. He remarked that the last point was the hardest, and for that reason the aim of the SEV Council on Sustainable Development is to stimulate a debate based on information, argumentation and good faith with society as a whole as well as with the state, the non-governmental organizations, the social partners and the academic community in particular. The goal is to help shape effective policies, to form a common tribune for debate without impediments and suspiciousness so that all essential and financially important decisions could be taken with minimum cost for society and maximum benefit for the environment.

## First nine months financial results for 2008

Sales up **13.8%**, EBITDA for Continuing Operations up **2.1%**

**S&B Industrial Minerals** reported consolidated sales growth of 13.8% for its Continuing Operations during the first nine months of 2008, reaching €355.8 million, a significant performance on the back of a 17.8% growth in the same period of 2007. For the first time this year, EBITDA outpaced last year’s performance, growing by 2.1% to €54.7 million, due to the third quarter’s performance which reflects anticipated profitability improvements. Operating Profits were ahead of last year, higher by 2.8% at €34.4 million, while Net Profits after tax amounted to €16 million and were behind last year by 17.5% displaying, however, an important improvement compared to the first half of 2008.

Including the results of its Discontinued Operations, namely **Motodynamics** and **Ergotrak**, the Group’s revenue de-

clined by 8.6% to €367.8 million, Operating Profits declined by 12.2% to €34.9 million while Net Profits after tax stood at €17.4 million, 26.8% lower than last year’s same nine-month period. It should be noted that the 2007 base includes the Discontinued Operations of both commercial subsidiaries, while the nine-month period of 2008 includes only Ergotrak for the first six months.

The third quarter of this year marks the first period, where S&B results reflect its exclusive focus on industrial mineral activities, fully in line with its announced strategy. S&B has continued to perform well by leveraging both its organic and acquired operations, despite the adverse economic developments impacting the world economy that became particularly acute towards the end of the third quarter.

Commenting on the results for the first nine months of 2008, **Efthimios Vidalis**, the Group’s CEO, pointed out that:

“**In the course of this year, we have acted on our strategy to focus our business on natural resources. The solid operational performance of the third quarter demonstrates the resulting value of our focus. So far, we have been able to offset unprecedented cost volatility and to maintain our leadership positions in the market. As we look to the future for the fourth quarter and 2009, we are proactively preparing to benefit from cost changes and engaging with our customers, in order to adjust to the uncertain environment that is emerging in many of our key markets**”

# “Official premiere” for the SEV Council on Sustainable Development

“Sustainable Development means a sustainable future for all of us”

With an aim to encourage constructive cooperation and to shape a sustainable future for all, representatives of the business community, the state and Civil Society responded to the invitation extended by the **Hellenic Federation of Enterprises (SEV)** to participate in a meeting that was held in the **Aegli Hall**, next to the Zappeion Exhibition Center in downtown Athens, on 11 November 2008, and marked the official premiere of the **SEV Council on Sustainable Development**.

The minister of the Environment, Planning and Public Works **Giorgos Souflias**, representing the government, and director of **Greenpeace Hellas Nikos Charalambidis**, representing non-governmental organizations, addressed the meeting. The chairman of SEV **Dimitris Daskalopoulos** and the chairman of the Council **Efthimios Vidalis** explained the goals and targets of this venture. The chairman of the **World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)** **Björn Stigson** and the EU Commissioner for the Environment **Stavros Dimas** delivered video messages to the opening session. SEV presented the aims, action plan and targets of the Council that will function as the Greek

chapter of WBCSD and will comprise businesses that both wish and are able to play a leading role among SEV members in the indispensable endeavor to inspire the business community, the various organizations and the society at large on the crucial issues of Sustainable Development.

Thirty one companies participate as founding members of the new Council, mostly from industry and commerce; they have pledged to gradually implement a new ten-principle Code of Conduct on Sustainable Development. Mr. Daskalopoulos opened the meeting by pointing out that Sustainable Development goals are not just topical but actually show us the way out of the current crisis by defining a vital economy that respects both society and the environment. He noted that “the international financial crisis in monopolizing our interest and our efforts. In essence, though, we are facing two crises. One that involves the deterioration of the global environment and to climate change that was brought about by the exponential increase of world population and [...] another that relates to a worldwide disintegration of social cohesion”. He also called attention to the fact



Representatives of companies-founding members, SEV Council on Sustainable Development

that “sustainable development means a sustainable future for all of us”. The chairman of the new Council pointed out that “Sustainable Development are, and should be, at the top of every agenda – the governments’, the NGOs’, the companies’ as well as the citizens’”. Mr. Vidalis also referred to the challenges we are facing today and highlighted the fact that “most agree that the current, unquestionably serious financial crisis we are facing today will inevitably pass. Yet no one can attest that this planet’s sustainability problem will go away. As long as we do not do something about it, it will get worse and by so doing will make the indispensable

solutions ever more painful”. He attributed special importance to the need to attain in a balanced way all three pillars of Sustainable Development; this will require delicate deliberations between competing interests. Modern companies, he said, have already incorporated in their strategies the preoccupation with the environment and are willing to play a leading role among the multitude of smaller businesses that struggle to survive. That is why SEV decided to take the initiative and show the way towards Sustainable Development and to promote enterprises as the main stakeholders as well as the catalyst in these matters. The strategic alliance

with the World Business Council for Sustainable Development is of vital importance to the new SEV Council; the WBCSD is, together with the European Union, the leading international organization on this front. Mr. Vidalis referred also to the pledge on the part of the Council’s members to adopt the Code of Conduct. It is not, he said, “an approval just in words but a pledge that will be followed by an effort to provide an account in figures and concrete actions. A number of founding members have already issued Social Reports or Sustainable Development Reports; we aim to gradually expand this practice to the sum total of Greek enterprises”.



DAPHNE award

## Milos, the best record in sustainability

Within the framework of **DAPHNE** (Network of Sustainable Islands of the Aegean), a non-profit company founded in 2005 with an aim to promote sustainable development on the islands of the Aegean, the sponsor-businessman **Georgios Prokopiou** set upon the **Sustain-**

**ability Award** in 2007, since given to the island having each year the best record in projects, actions and infrastructure concerning sustainable development.

During the special ceremony that took place at the General Assembly of the Network on January 23,

2009, at the premises of the Central Union of Municipalities and Communities in Athens, Sustainability Award for 2008 was given to the Municipality of Milos for having installed the desalination unit powered by wind turbines, the innovative waste treatment unit for bi-

ological cleaning and reuse of wastewater in irrigation (see p. 9), for the study of a geopark, for the elaboration of zoning plans in conformity with Open Cities and for the protection of the sea lily with the creation of nurseries on sandy beaches (see p. 7).

The award that comes with a prize of €30,000 and the badge of sustainability (laurel branch) was given to the island after the **National Technical University** had evaluated all the projects carried out by all the island authorities that are members of the network.

News



**S&B participates in the “Entrepreneurship and Career Panorama”**

**S&B sponsored the Entrepreneurship and Career Panorama and participated in the exhibition with its own stand**

The *Entrepreneurship and Career Panorama* was organized on 31 October, 1 and 2 November 2008 at the Zappeion Conference & Exhibition Center, in Athens, Greece, by **Iordanis Ladopoulos**, former professor of the **Athens University of Economics and Business**, under the auspices of the **Ministry of Economy and Finance** and the **Ministry of Development** with the cooperation of the **European Parliament**.

The Panorama is a multipart event comprising conferences, seminars and exhibitions; the most important companies as well as numerous distinguished lecturers participate. Its main aim is to help young people to organize and plan their future professional activities, to impart valuable knowledge on various subjects, including business start-ups and career development, and to provide them with the opportunity to meet and interact with representatives of major compa-

nies and with successful business people and managers. **S&B Industrial Minerals S.A.**, a company the policy of which includes the support of every action aiming at the development of entrepreneurship and the continuing contact with the student community and young managers, sponsored the *Panorama* and participated in the exhibition with its own stand, providing information to all those interested in its activities.

**The mine as host and educator**



**Students from the Technical University of Crete during the presentation at the education hall**

On Thursday, September 25, 2008, a group of 50 students from the Mineral Resources Engineering Department of the **Technical University of Crete** visited the bauxite mine of **S&B Industrial Minerals S.A.** in Fokida, accompanied by three of their professors. The visit included a brief presentation of the mine and its activities, a tour of the “Kleisoura” underground deposit, as well as open pit sites and land reclamation areas. In conclusion, they also visited the company’s loading facilities in Itea.

On Wednesday, October 22, 2008, a group of 80 students of the Geology and Geoenvironment Dept. of the National University of Athens visited the bauxite mine, accompanied by four of their professors. The aim was for the students to get acquainted with the sites and the mining processes, mine reclamation and the working environment of scientists. The visit also included a brief presentation of the mine and the geologist’s work, as well as a tour of open pit mines and land reclamation areas.

**MMM at international conference in Norway**

The **European Museum Forum (EMF)**, whose members also include the **Milos Mining Museum (MMM)**, during 10-13 October 2008 organized the third European Museum Forum Workshop regarding European Island Museums, in the Norwegian County of Rogaland, based in Haugesund and in the designated European City of Culture for 2008, Stavanger. Previous workshops had been on the islands of Madeira (Portugal) in 2005 and Milos in 2006, hosted by MMM. This year’s conference-workshop, focusing on “*Island and coastal heritage as a vital part of European identity*”, was attended by repre-

sentatives from museums in Britain, Croatia, Greece, Iceland, Norway and Portugal. At the workshops organized during the interactive conference according to EMF methodology, round-table discussions dealt with issues concerning not only the role of museums within the framework of cultural life on the islands, but also their presence as hubs of lifelong learning. Climate change and the problems arising from its various manifestations in archaeological and cultural monuments also loomed large, while the social responsibility of museums towards local societies and tourists-visitors was discussed in great detail, in or-



**Participants of the EMF Workshop in Norway**

der to determine which groups’ interests are mainly covered by each museum and its specific activities. The three workshop-conferences were concluded with a report written by **Stephen Harrison**, Director of the Manx National Heritage,

Isle of Man, based on the contributions of the various professionals who participated. The report was submitted to the Council of Europe, so that the European island museums network may be recognized as a special network of

professionals within the framework of the EMF. Greece was represented by **Andreas Lapourtas** from the Piraeus Bank Group Cultural Foundation and by **Anna Vogli** on behalf of MMM.

# Corporate Responsibility

## S&B land reclamation on Milos



**Left: The beautiful sea lily returning to its habitat, Plathiena beach**  
**Below: New hydroseeding at the Halepa mine**  
**Lawn for the Tripiti football field**  
**The interesting briefing regarding the activities of the Rehabilitation Dept. ended with colleagues expressing their wish for follow-up presentations more often in the future.**



From 20 to 23 January 2009, 150 of our colleagues on Milos attended a presentation by the company forester **Giorgos Petrakis** on the impressive activity of **S&B's** Rehabilitation Dept. on Milos. Truly dedicated to his work, Mr. Petrakis presented in a novel and moving way the issues regarding climate, soil, plants and animals, all the marvellous features of our natural environment which we, as members of a responsible business community, are called to reclaim, to protect and to deliver to future generations. Everyone was especially impressed by the constant research under way, the incessant efforts to improve restoration methodology, the technology in use, so that results achieved may improve as years go by.

The record of Land Reclamation Unit involves new and ongoing activities, some of which are:

### The sea lily

Since the Municipality of Milos has decided to protect the sea

lily, plants offered by S&B's nursery were used so that the sea lily may "return" to its natural environment (Plathiena beach) and continue to grow and regenerate by itself.

It is a species that normally grows at the wider Eastern Aegean region, but lately it has become rather rare, ever since its natural habitat was degraded. The Municipality of Milos was honored with the DAPHNE 2008 sustainability award (see p. 5), among others for its initiative to protect the sea lily, as well.

The sea lily has been successfully cultivated at the S&B nursery on Milos since 1998-1999 and has repeatedly been used in land reclamation projects at the Milos sites of Hivadolimni, Trahila and Vouidia.

### Lawn for the Tripiti football field

S&B's plant nursery offered the lawn for the Tripiti new football field. It is a special kind of grass that grows only on Milos, known

as *Augustus*. It proves quite hardy to extreme climate features of the island such as salt, brackish water and strong winds. Dry or yellow in color during the winter months, it becomes green and vivid when temperature rises above 12°C. It is hoped that the lawn of the football field will be watered with wastewater treated at the new biological cleaning plant of the island (see p. 9)

### Rehabilitation at the exhausted mine in Halepa

In November 2008, hydroseeding took place once again at the old Halepa mine. It was carried out within the framework of the cooperation between S&B and the **Forest Directorate** of the **Cyclades Prefecture** so that the mine, inactive since 1986 and having never been exploited by S&B, may be restored to its natural environment. The initial reclamation work began with S&B's plants and expertise in 2005.

## Corporate Responsibility

## S&B in Delphi fire protection

Continuing its significant participation at the restoration works carried out in the archaeological and natural environment of ancient Olympia after the forest fires during the summer of 2007, an effort for which the company was honored by the Ministry of Culture (see issue 59), **S&B Industrial Minerals S.A.** once again actively contributes to the fire protection project of Delphi, another Greek archaeological monument of immense cultural and historical significance, also a monument of global heritage cherished by **UNESCO**.

More specifically, our colleague **Christodoulos Mermiris**, fore-

ster in charge of the reclamation department of S&B's bauxite mine in Fokis, carried out a study sponsored by the company, upon request by the **9th Delphi Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities**. The study refers to the landscape development of the area inside and outside the fencing of the archaeological site of Delphi, focusing on the ways and means for the fire prevention and protection for both the site and the museum. Recently approved by the **Central Archaeological Council**, the study calls for interventions, though not extensive, in the management of the

pine-tree area inside the fenced archeological site, so that any trees dried, malformed or damaged by fungus or insects be partially and gradually replaced by trees less susceptible to destruction by fire (olive trees, cypresses, oak trees etc.) but in harmony with the local landscape. Thus, the small grove's resistance to fires and its biodiversity will both be enhanced. In addition, the study provides for landscaping measures in the long term along the pathways throughout the archeological site and wider fire protection, such as the annual cleaning of low bush vegetation.

## S&B enriching nature on Paros island

After the request from the **"Nireas" Athletic Educational and Cultural Association** of Paros, **S&B Industrial Minerals S.A.** offered the know-how and the 750 indigenous plants of the Cycladic islands grown in the company-owned nursery on Milos, in order to further enrich and support the natural environment on the neighboring island. More specifically, the Association, having undertaken to assist the Municipality of Paros in its attempt to protect and improve a 800,000 sq.m. area of exceptional natural beauty at the Aghios Ioannis Detis peninsula in NW Paros, asked S&B for help "taking

into account the experience and infrastructure that the company possesses" when it comes to providing plants, expertise and all kinds of proposals and ideas. Through the efforts of **George Petrakis**, the company forester in Milos, S&B swiftly responded to the request and offered a variety of plants (*phoenicen unipers, mastic trees, tamarisks, thorny burnets, hairy thorny brooms* etc.), from brushwood to fully-grown trees, for the restoration of a 4,000 sq.m. area within the aforementioned peninsula, which, due to overgrazing for a number of years, had been systematically depleted of its flora.



## Otavi sponsors local children football team in Neuss, Germany

Otavi Minerals started in 2008 sponsoring the children's football team **SG Orken-Noithausen-Bambini** in Neuss, Germany. Our colleague **Christoph Koentgen** was "pro-

claimed" coach of the team, and, like real professionals, the little football players are posing for the official team photo with the sponsor-company's logo on their jumpers.

Correspondence by **Tassos Fountis**, Marketing & Sales Manager, **OTAVI-Glass & Ceramics BU, S&B Industrial Minerals GmbH**

## Stollberg India certified as per ISO 14001



Following the Group's philosophy for continuous improvement of its environmental performance, **Stollberg India Pvt. Ltd.** was the first unit of S&B's Stollberg Division to be certified for its Environment Management System as per ISO 14001:2004. In December 2008, Stollberg India, Durgapur, passed successfully the Recertification Audit carried out by the certification agency **TÜV** and is now recertified for the next 3 years, until January 2012.

Stollberg India has just completed the training and preparation of the documentation for OHSAS 18001, as well as for the Integrated Management System (IMS). The IMS (combining ISO 9001:2008, ISO 14001:2004 and OHSAS 18001) will be implemented in 2009.

Correspondence by **Sulekha Sarkar**, Assistant to the Managing Director, **Stollberg India Pvt. Ltd.**

MILOS Initiative S.A.

# Biological wastewater treatment plant at Aghia Styliani



**The Mayor of Milos cutting the ribbon during the opening ceremony of the biological cleaning plant**

Construction of the Biological Wastewater Treatment Plant at Aghia Styliani on Milos was finally concluded, and on Sunday, 18 January 2009, the plant was formally delivered to local authorities and set in trial operation. It represents a highly significant infrastructure development, of great value to the island, and also the first activity of the developmental company titled **MILOS Initiative S.A.**, so that a long-standing problem of waste management on the beautiful island of Milos can finally be resolved. MILOS Initiative was founded in autumn 2007 by the Municipality of Milos, through the Municipal Developmental Corporation, and **S&B Industrial Minerals S.A.** Its aim is to act in support and in complement of other already existing structures, in order to pro-

mote in any possible way sustainable development on Milos, with an emphasis on balanced economic development, environment, culture and quality of life. The Initiative also intends to locate, design and selectively apply projects of infrastructure development and improvement, as well as to provide counsel and case study services for the undertaking of actions in the benefit of the local society and its interests in general. The Biological Waste Treatment Plant newly in operation uses the latest technology of "membrane bioreactor". **HPC-PASECO** has undertaken the project design and supervision, while construction work was assigned, after an international competition, to the company **MESOGIOS A.T.E.**, specializing in waste manage-

ment projects. The total cost is expected to reach €800.000 and will be covered in total by funds of MILOS Initiative. In time, the new factory will cover the needs of the villages Plaka, Pera Triovassalos, Triovassalos, Tripiti and Adamas, receiving wastes both through the sewage network and by means of special vehicles. During the special opening ceremony, the Mayor of Milos and President of the MILOS Initiative **George Tsainis** pointed out that "biological waste treatment represents an especially significant addition to the infrastructure of Milos and it will contribute greatly to the improvement of the inhabitants' quality of life, also enhancing the island's development. This is the first project of MILOS Initiative, actively demonstrating our intent to cooperate with anyone concerned for



**The biological waste treatment plant at Aghia Styliani**



**The islands' clergy blessed the first infrastructure project by MILOS Initiative at the opening ceremony**

the progress of the island, on the prerequisites of transparency, partnership, flexibility and efficiency". **Efthimios Vidalis**, S&B's CEO, emphasized: "Our company, as an active and responsible citizen, always undertakes and participates in actions and initiatives aiming at the balanced and sustainable development of Milos and its society. The design, construction and delivery of a project benefiting first and foremost the island, through MILOS Initiative, for us represents the starting point for a transformation of our company's relations with

the Municipality of Milos, into an innovative synergy for the achievement of our common vision, namely to promote Milos as a model of sustainable development". During the ceremony the island's clergy gave their blessing. Present were also the prefectural and municipal councilors, representatives of other state and social authorities of Milos, as well as those from the companies involved in the design and construction processes, and many islanders who had the opportunity to explore the factory.



## “Safe Cargo 2008” seminar in Stollberg, Germany

German colleagues in training, photographed alongside the “safe cargo”!

German businesses every year suffer hundreds of millions in damage from cargo inaccurately or at all secured on vehicles. This has been verified by the German Insurance Association (GDV). Whoever has survived an incident of badly fastened load “taking off” – for example, when the vehicle stops abruptly – surely knows what we are talking about. The police also have undertaken to tackle the problem of constantly increasing accidents caused by negligent fastening of cargo. Especially small businesses, for which the transport of commodities, raw materials and tools is a daily process of vital importance, should acquire special care towards the dangers lurking by accidents of this sort, not to mention the fines and “point-system” punishments inflicted on them by the traffic police.

Thus, we hope that all participants in the seminar **S&B Industrial Minerals GmbH** organized for its employees have learned an important lesson. It was an educational initiative undertaken by **Bernd Bissot**, manager of the **Stollberg** plant at Oberhausen, Germany, in cooperation with **Klee**, the company specializing in dangerous cargo transports, that provides counsel to Stollberg concerning safety issues. During the months of July, September and October 2008, 33 of our colleagues from Marl, Essen, Neuss and Oberhausen, divided in three groups, were

taught how to secure a cargo on a vehicle so that it, the vehicle and the persons charged with its transportation can all reach their destination intact. At the end of the seminar, all participants took a test, and their success was rewarded with a relevant certificate.

*“Response to this initiative was impressive”, said Mr. Bissot, who also attended the seminar. And he adds that there have been already applications for another such session sometime in spring 2009. “No company and no employee can remain aloof to accidents involving injuries to people and damage to goods and services. It is in the interest not only of workers but also of their companies to take preventive measures. We hope that our colleagues who have acquired this important knowledge here, will not only protect themselves and the goods entrusted to them, but will also emphasize the care and concern for security issues to others. This is what we mean by active security in the workplace.”*

We congratulate our colleagues for their success and wish everyone safe transport both inside and outside our company installations!

Correspondence by **Anke Fischer-Lohrengel**, Stollberg Division, Germany



The seminar included both theory and practice

## Milos Conference Center

# 2008 was a year rich in culture and science

The **Milos Conference Center - George Eliopoulos** was the venue for an impressive number of events during the 2008 season. Thirty three events were hosted at the MCC:

## Cinema

- On 26 January the third grade of the Milos **Junior High School** organized a film screening, for the benefit of the class fund, attended by 65 people.
- On 12 April the **Milos Cinema Club** organized the screening of the documentary "The eleventh hour" which focuses on climate change; a total of 60 people, including the students of the Petroupoli Vocational School who were visiting Milos at the time, attended the screening.
- On 12 April the Milos Cinema Club organized the screening of the Greek Film "El Greco", attended by 65 people.
- On 17 May the Cinema Club again presented the documentary "The eleventh hour" in front of 30 people.
- Between 21 and 25 June, the **Municipality of Milos** organized the screening of thirty-four short and feature films with a focus on ecology within the framework of the "Milos-Ecocinema 2008" program. A total of 160 people attended.
- On 4 October the third grade of the Milos **Senior High School** organized the screening of three feature films for an audience of 20.
- On 23 November about 70 people watched a double bill.
- On 29 November the students of the Milos Senior High's third grade organized a screening of two films attended by 130 people.

## Theatre

- On 15 March the students of Milos Senior High staged, with the help of their teachers, a musical

theatrical performance dedicated to important Greek composers and lyricists that was watched by 430 people. A reception at the Euripides Mavrommatis Wing followed.

- On 31 May and on 1 and 2 June the **Milos Experimental Theatre** presented the production "From the Inside Out", an improvisation, in the B1 hall of the Euripides Mavrommatis Wing before an audience of 200.
- On 9 June the Milos **Primary School** organized an event to celebrate the World Environment Day with the participation of the pupils. The event included theater, poems, music and songs as well as suggestions on how to protect the environment. 250 people attended.
- Between 26 and 29 September, the Milos Experimental Theatre presented the production "From the Inside Out" before 200 people.
- On 25 October the Milos Experimental Theatre presented a spectacle entitled "Following the steps of tango argentine and salsa"; about 200 people enjoyed the show.
- On 13 December the MCC hosted the Christmas party for the children of the **S&B Industrial Minerals S.A.** employees; 200 children and parents participated. At the Euripides Mavrommatis Wing, the students of the third grade of the Milos Senior High School had organized a bazaar; a large number of people paid a visit.
- On 25 May the **Milos Experimental School** organized a dance show on the occasion of the end of the school year; all the children that had taken dance and ballet lessons throughout the year participated in the show, before an audience of 280 people.
- On 14 and 15 June the **School of Music** of the Municipality of Milos

organized a student concert in which the **Municipal Choir** also participated. More than 485 people in all enjoyed the concerts.

- On 14 December the School of Music of the Municipality of Milos and the Municipal Choir presented a Christmas program; all students participated and about 420 people attended.

## Conferences

- Between 19 and 22 May a conference on "Physics of Massive Neutrinos" was held by the **University of Ioannina**, organized by **Kosmas Theocharis**, assistant professor of Theoretical Nuclear Physics, and was attended by 80 participants from all over the world.
- On 28 and 29 August, **D. Mataras**, assistant professor at the Department of Chemical Engineering of the **University of Patras**, organized the *First International Symposium on Plasma: Processing and Biomedical Applications*, attended by 70 participants.
- Between 7 and 9 September the second international workshop on "Geoenvironment and Geotechnics" was held within the framework of the "Milos Conferences" Program, with the participation of 65 scientists.
- On 2 and 3 October the **Cyclades Development Society S.A.** organized a conference on "Alternative Tourism and Environmental Management in small and island communities", with an attendance of 100 specialists.

## Symposiums

- On 27 and 28 May the Cyclades Development Society S.A. organized an Alternative Tourism Seminar and Workshop within the framework of the action titled "Protection and promotion of spe-



cial Natura 2000 areas on the island of Milos"; 25 sea-tourism specialists took part.

- On 28 May **Mallis S.A.**, a dye company, presented a new line of products that will be introduced to the local market of Milos, before 60 attendees.
- On 29 May the students of the Department of Geology of the **University of Athens** organized, with the support of their professor **M. Stamatakis**, an event celebrating the conclusion of their educational trip to Milos.
- Between 11 and 13 June, **Elenco**, a private company, organized its annual conference in the Euripides Mavrommatis Wing.
- On 21 June the second Scientific Symposium on the Milos Catacombs took place; his eminence the Bishop of Syros **Dorotheos II** presided and 110 people attended.

## The 15th Milos Cultural Festival

- Between 4 and 6 July the 3<sup>rd</sup> Festival of Underwater Films was held, within the framework of the 15<sup>th</sup> Milos Cultural Festival. About 150 people followed the film festival.
- On 7 July the National Theater of Greece presented in the MCC's atrium the production of the play "The most beautiful story in the world". Numerous children accompanied by their parents, around 350 people in total, were in the audience.

• On 20 July the film "Return to Milos" was screened; the documentary had been filmed in the late 1950s by **Agathoklis Kypriotis**, then manager of the **Silver and Baryte Company** (present-day **S&B Industrial Minerals S.A.**) and depicted the social life and activities of the inhabitants of Milos at the time. Around 200 people attended.

• On 26 July the **Federation of Professionals of the Milos Province** organized a concert by the composer **Vangelis Korakakis** attended by about 400 people.

• On 2 August a concert on the theme "A night across centuries", with the composer **Notis Mavroudis** in collaboration with **Pan. Margaris** and **Anastasia Moutsatsou** was organized; 450 people were in the audience.

• Between 4 and 11 August a number of animation feature films were screened at the MCC atrium; the festival organized by the Milos Cinema Club drew an audience of 650 children.

• On 20 August at the MCC atrium a concert by **Tania Tsanaklidou**, a famous singer, was held with about 800 people in attendance.

Summing up, during the twelve-month period, 4 conferences, 7 symposiums and seminars and 22 other events were held at the MCC's facilities for a total of 50 days hosting around 6,727 people.

## Letters of thanks

### **The Association for the Psychosocial Health of Children and Adolescents (A.P.H.C.A.)**

The president and the board of A.P.H.C.A. express their warm gratitude for your financial contribution to the "Iris" therapeutic hostel for adolescents [...] It is of great importance to stand by those people that are in need. Needless to say, it is also important for us to have people believing and supporting our work.

In appreciation  
The secretary  
*Chr. Tsakos*

### **Center for Professional Rehabilitation of Persons with Special Needs**

We thank you for your financial assistance in buying furniture and equipment for our Center, thus contributing to the achievement of our goals.

The President  
*Nikolaos Lianos*

### **Educational Museum of Industry and Handicrafts**

Your unreserved appreciation and financial support to our work not only moves us, but also provides the wind in our sails in order to surmount the difficulties of our times, with schools closed for the duration.

We express our warm thanks for your assistance in the successful undertaking of our celebratory educational program that was a source of pleasure for young and old.

In appreciation,  
The Director  
*Sophia Rock-Melas*

### **Hellenic Institute for Occupational Health and Safety**

After the success of the Fourth International Conference titled "Prevention of occupational accident in a changing work environ-

ment", organized by ELINYAE, we wish to express our warm thanks for the financial assistance given by your company.

Your active support was definitive for the successful outcome of the conference, with 200 presentations and more than 400 scientists specializing in matters of safety around the world.

In appreciation  
The President  
*Ioannis Drapaniotis*

### **Fokiki Development S.A. Sociomedical Center of Amfissa**

Our warmest thanks are due for your immediate response to our call for financial assistance so that presents could be given to Rom children living in the Fokida area, at the Christmas celebration organized by the Sociomedical Center of Amfissa. Our Center is a welfare organization providing for the social integration, healthcare and education of the Rom population in the area. [...] It must be noted that without your contribution the necessary funds would never had been found, and the children would be left without Christmas presents.

The CEO  
*Panagiota Laini-Kolliali*

### **Municipality of Amfissa**

It is our obligation to thank you for your donation to the construction of water supply infrastructure at the municipal department of Proselion (Viniani).

We believe that initiatives such as this demonstrate the good will in relations between your company and the municipality of Amfissa, and we hope for further cooperation.

The Mayor of Amfissa  
*Assimakis Assimakopoulos*

### **Society of Social Psychiatry and Mental Health**

We express our warm gratitude for

your significant contribution to the First Panhellenic Symposium for Mobile Units of Mental Health. Enthusiastic participation, in great numbers, [...] of scientists from all over the country made us all more optimistic and emphasized the role of Mobile Units of Mental Health for the population.

Scientist in charge of Fokida Section  
*Maria-Harikleia Lazaridou*

### **Hellenic Police Fokida Headquarters**

We express our warm thanks for your contribution covering needs in the organization of the Road Traffic Police Exhibition. Our offices will always be at your service for any cooperation and lawful assistance.

The Chief of Police  
*Spyridon Glymis*

### **First, Second and Third Primary Schools of Itea**

We have the honor to inform you that we received the petrol for heating purposes donated by your company to our school. The director, the faculty, the students and their parents thank you warmly for your kind initiative.

The Directors  
*Athanasios Kontogiannis  
Vassileios Fourkas  
Panagiotis Kastritis*

### **Nireas Sports, Educational and Cultural Association, Paros Island, Greece**

We wish to thank you for the donation of endemic plants used in planting the new **Cultural and Environmental Park** that is being created in the area of Aghios Ioannis Detis on the island of Paros. The species you donated are endemic and especially hard to find in other nurseries. The fact that they are already adapted to the climatic conditions of the Cyclades islands enhances the chances for the suc-

cess of the planting process.

We also thank you for the immediacy and speed with which you have responded to our request. We owe special thanks to Mr. Petrakis, head of nursery, for his teamwork spirit. In early 2008, a vehicle of the **Municipality of Paros** transported around 800 plants from Milos. On 10 December 2008, in cooperation with the 5th Office of Secondary Education in Cyclades, the Municipality of Paros and the **Naoussa High School**, we proceeded with the planting and irrigation in an area of about 4,000 square meters. More than 150 students and numerous citizens helped in this process. Your contribution has been announced to the Municipal Council of the Municipality of Paros, as well as to the local Press and the radio stations, where it was covered by related articles and announcements. It will also be mentioned in every communication from the sponsors of the park.

The aim of the Municipality of Paros, owner of the land, is to repeat similar actions within the Aghios Ioannis park of around 800,000 sq. m. We hope you will assist us in the future in actions relating to culture and the environment.

The President  
*Koulianos Ioannis*

### **First Primary School of Amfissa**

The School Council, the Parents Association, the students and the teachers thank you for your generous donation of petrol for heating purposes. Your contribution is significant and highly symbolic to all of us serving this school. We are especially pleased to know that there are people intent on helping our work in any way they can. We are pleased to work with you and wish that more persons, companies or local authorities follow your example. Thanks to your wish to assist, we gather the strength to continue our duty.

The Director  
*Demetrios Nikolaou*

### **Municipality of Milos**

We wish to express our warmest thanks to your company for the assistance offered in the completion of the small football field at Tripiti, and in particular Mr. G. Petrakis, your company's forester.

The Deputy Mayor  
*Nikolaos Mallis*

### **Developmental Association of Inhabitants and Holidaymakers at Klima of Milos**

We express our warm gratitude for your financial assistance to our association, which has helped enormously in the achievement of our goals.

The President  
*Aikaterini Androulidaki*

### **Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg**

We express our warm thanks for your kind hospitality during our educational trip to Milos in October 2008, organized in cooperation with the University of Athens [...] Our students were greatly interested in getting acquainted with the spectacular bentonite mines belonging to your company, as well as the Voudia installations, and to acquire some of the rich knowledge of geology of your experienced executives.

In appreciation  
*Professor Dr. Joachim Rohn*  
Department of Applied Geology

Through your newspaper I would like to thank S&B Industrial Minerals S.A. and its administration for the 25 years of employment that they offered me.

In appreciation  
*Loukas Alexandris*,  
S&B pensioner  
Vounihora, Fokida, Greece

# St. Barbara Day celebrated by S&B



**S&B Industrial Minerals S.A.** celebrated the patron saintess of mines according to the Greek Orthodox tradition, St Barbara, on Thursday December 4, 2008 in both its production sites, on the island of Milos and in Fokis.

**AT THE 51st KILOMETER** of the Lamia-Amfissa national road, where the company's bauxite mine is situated, the celebration was attended by the company's chairman **Ulysses Kyriacopoulos**, top management, numerous employees, retirees, partners, subcontractors and representatives of the local authorities. The celebration started with mass in the church of Aghia Varvara (St. Barbara) situated in the premises of the mine, followed by the traditional benediction and speeches in the meeting room of the central building. The company's CEO **Efthimios Vidalis** referred to S&B's progress during the previous year and presented in brief the action plan the company intends to im-

plement in order to overcome the global financial crisis. He also presented the new campaign by the **Greek Mining Enterprises Association (SME)** with an aim to promote the importance of minerals in everyday life. **Thomas Androulakis**, general manager of the Bauxite & Otavi Division, then referred to the overall course of the Bauxite Division during the previous year and to its prospects for the coming year, especially during the challenging international conjuncture. The mine's general manager **Yannis Sanoudos** presented a review of the previous year's operations and referred to the five main targets for the bauxite mine during 2008. These pillars, as he called them, are research for new deposits, cost, production, security and relations with the local community. The positive results of the previous year were owed to the achievements of all "fighters" as he labeled the mine's employees and partners. Finally, Mr. Kyriacopoulos al-

so referred to the importance of minerals in everyday life and to the relations between S&B's operations and the local community. The celebration was attended by **Nikos Foussekis**, prefect of Fokis, **George Katsarelis**, sub-prefect, **Panagiotis Mandrekas**, chairman of the Prefectural Council, **Assimakis Assimakopoulos**, mayor of Amfissa, **Aristeidis Papalaios**, mayor of Itea, **Thanassis Mananas**, mayor of Gravia, **George Lazarou**, alderman of the Community of Kyriakion, and other representatives of local authorities, the chairman of the Fokis Chamber of Commerce and Industry **Vangelis Mytaras**, the commanding officers of the Police, the Coast Guard and the Fire Department as well as representatives of other local services.

**AT VOUDIA**, in the mess hall of the company's premises on Milos, the day was celebrated with a mass and benediction by fathers **M. Papafaklis**, **I. Markantonis**

**Above: The icon of Aghia Varvara, patron of mines, overlooks the hall in which the celebrations are held in Voudia. Below: On the occasion of the St. Barbara Day celebration, Mr. Vidalis presented the SME Campaign**

and **S. Zoulias**. The general managers of the Perlite and Bentonite Divisions, **A. Chatziparaskevas** and **Y. Paniaras** respectively, as well as the production managers **E. Tsontakis** and **A. Kefalas**, numerous employees and several guests, among which pupils

from the **Pollonia Primary School**, were present. On the Day's eve, Great Vespers was held in the church of Aghia Paraskevi in Pollonia, while the **Milos Labor Center** celebrated the occasion with vespers at the church of Aghios Spyridon in Triovassalos.

## A matter of health



**S&B Industrial Minerals S.A.** in cooperation with the **Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine** held a special event with **Ioannis Tountas** as speaker, on Tuesday 14 October 2008 at its premises in Kifissia. Mr. Tountas is assistant professor

at the Department of Social Medicine at the University of Athens, and his speech focused on the adoption of positive behavior which promotes and safeguards personal health, concerning in particular diet, exercise, stress management and smoking cessation.

Effecting this kind of changes in daily life more often than not requires systematic effort and, above all, assistance from specialized scientists. For this reason, the scientific discipline of Health Treatment, comprising specially-designed intervention and coun-

selling, can help us to acquire habits that may prove of inestimable value to our health. Within this framework S&B decided to initiate, in cooperation with scientists from the Institute, a set of programs for company employees focusing on quitting

smoking. The first program, with the participation of 12 colleagues who wish to rid themselves of this addiction, started out on Tuesday 27 January 2009 and will be completed after 8 weekly two-hour sessions. We wish all of them a great success!



**ATHENS:** The Chairman honors colleague Yannis Pikros for 30 years of continuous employment at the company



**FOKIDA:** The Vice-chairman cutting New Year cake at the bauxite mine



**MILOS:** Retirees of the year 2008 saying goodbye at banquet in Pollonia

## Pie-cutting 2009 ceremony at S&B

**ATHENS.** On Friday January 23, S&B's headquarters in Kifissia hosted the New Year's corporate pie-cutting celebration. Chairman of the Board **Ulysses Kyriacopoulos** marked the start of the event addressing the employees, the pensioners and all other guests. A speech by CEO **Efthimios Vidalis** followed, noting the progress of the company during the past year, as well as the prospects for the difficult year that lies ahead (see p. 1). Colleagues who completed in 2008 20 and 30 years of work at the company were honored for their services, as is the custom during the ceremony at the start of every new year.

**FOKIDA.** On Thursday January 22, S&B's bauxite mine celebrated the pie-cutting event for 2009 as well. Apart from employees and administration, present were also the Vice-chairman of the Board **Emmanuel Voulgaris**, Mr. Vidalis, Bauxite and Otavi Division General Manager **Thomas Androulakis**, Corporate Social Responsibility & Communication Director **Rena Koumantou**, HR Manager-Greece **Sissy Amvrossiadou**, colleagues retired during the past year and representatives of contractors. The event started with a speech by Mr. Vidalis, a brief review of the company's progress with an emphasis on bauxite during the past year, as well as some estimates for 2009. Then Mr. Androulakis and the mine operations manager **Yannis Sanoudos** gave honorary plaques to colleagues who completed last year 20 and 30 years of service. Following that, **Eleni Panoris**, daughter of colleague **Yannis Panoris**, received a financial award

from HR head **Dimitris Tsoumas**, for having excelled in high school during 2007-2008 school year. Finally, Mr. Voulgaris cut the cake and the lucky coin was won by Saint Barbara, though absent, always protector of the mines!

**MILOS.** On January 28<sup>th</sup>, the New Year pie-cutting took place at the company premises in Voudia. It was attended by many employees, executives and partners of S&B. Mr. Vidalis spoke here as well, referring to the achievements of the previous year, analyzing the goals for the year ahead and the new era in the economy, fraught with difficulties not only for Milos, but also for the whole Group and internationally. Colleagues entering retirement were honored, as were those who completed 20 and 30 years of work at S&B during the previous year, and they all received gifts and letters of acknowledgment. Within the framework of the fourth cycle of "Ideas Collecting Process", established in the Milos site the last four years, three of our colleagues, **Nikos Mathioudakis**, **Antonios Anagnostopoulos** and **Saranto Prevenas** were awarded for the ingenious ideas and inventiveness; the first two won a trip abroad or inside Greece and the last one an extra day of leave from work. Finally, the cake was cut and shared out by Mr. Vidalis, General Manager of Perlite Division **Aris Chatziparaskevas** and Bentonite Operations Manager **Thanassis Kefalas**. The ten colleagues retiring during 2008 were honored at a formal lunch in Pollonia, also attended by the Perlite Division Operations Manager **Manolis Tsontakis** and Mr. Kefalas, and by supervisors and foremen of the retirees sectors of work.

# Christmas for children at S&B

Christmas in 2008 was celebrated by S&B Industrial Minerals S.A. in the presence of employees and their children in Athens, on Milos and in Fokida, following the annual custom.

In Athens, the children's Christmas party took place on Monday 15 December, at the company headquarters in Kifissia. All children aged up to 12 had the opportunity to see Santa on his sledge, to craft Christmas ornaments of their own and to write down their wishes for the holiday season on the cards of their own creation. They played, danced, sang and had a pleasant afternoon full of fun and joy.

On Milos, the party for the children took place at the Milos Conference Center – George Eliopoulos on December, 13. The children watched the play

Swan Lake by Katia Dandoulaki children's troupe "Reverie of Theatre" based on the famous work by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. The delightful music heard at the marble-clad hall of the Conference Center, as well as the dances of the Swan Queen and the dark magician, created an atmosphere of intensity, mystery and, above all, charm! At the end of the evening, Santa Claus handed out presents and good wishes to all. Let it be noted that 2008 was the 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the children's Christmas party on Milos.

In Fokida, the special day was Saturday December 20, since the Amfissa Cultural Center hosted the Christmas party for the children of the bauxite mine employees. The celebration included the play Swan



Santa in Athens with "follower", the Swan Queen dancing at the Milos Conference Center and the clown sharing the fun with children of employees at the bauxite mine

Lake as on Milos island. The performance impressed both children and their parents with its high quality and aesthetic value. What followed was an enormous feast with music, dancing, clowns at play and plenty of conjurers pulling off their tricks. At the end of this 4-hour marathon of fun for the young ones and the not-so-young-ones Santa handed out presents to all children.

The mine, as is custom during the last few years, also organized a second performance of the same play, at the same venue and on the same day, free for the public of Fokida, thus giving the chance to the rest of the local community to experience the magic of theatre, since the children of the area do not get this chance often. Santa Claus worked overtime and

waited for the kids at the door, saying goodbye in his very own way, a pleasant surprise for both children and parents. The local community once again rejoiced at the invitation, and the hall was filled with people.

We wish good health and great joy to our colleagues and their children, as well as all the best to the world for New Year!



## Christmas with S&B in Germany

S&B celebrated Christmas in Haltern, Germany, on 12 December, with numerous German colleagues.

It was an enjoyable evening with great cuisine and joyous mood. CEO Eftimios Vidalis was also present and offered bouquets of

flowers to those of our colleagues who were honored for their anniversary of 10 and 25 years' work at the company.

Correspondence by Asli Imrachimoglu, HR Development, Germany

CEO Eftimios Vidalis with colleagues honored for their anniversary of 10 or 25 years' work at the company, E. Götz, M. Gawlik, J. Schulpin, M. Stalmach, M. Wloch, U. Kolenbrander, C. Grefhorst and J. Sensmeier



Ms. Kyriacopoulos at the R.C. Kerkyra

The Rotary Club of Kerkyra (Corfu), constantly exhibiting significant and numerous social and humanitarian activities not only on the island of Corfu but also internationally, organized the "Inspiring Leaders" event on November 22, 2008. The event took place at the Reading

Society's building, which is the oldest edifice housing an academic institution in modern Greece. During the event, which was also attended by representatives of local authorities as well as distinguished guests, the theme of leadership was explored through interesting

and challenging argumentation. Keynote speaker **Ulysses P. Kyriacopoulos**, chairman of **S&B Industrial Minerals S.A.** and chairman of the board of Directors of the Greek National Opera, gave a speech titled "Responsible building and managing of consensus".

## R.C. Corfu honors K. Kyriacopoulos



At the closing of the event, **Kitty Kyriacopoulos**, honorary chairman of S&B, received the *Paul Harris Fellow Award*, the highest distinction by Rotary International, in recognition of her exceptional service in the fields of social, humanitarian and philanthropic action. **Nikolaos K.**

**Papadimitriou**, president of Rotary Club of Kerkyra, thanked the distinguished Greek businesswoman and the keynote speaker for their significant contribution to the nation and expressed his ardent wish that they may always be inspiring paragons of ethics and charity.

## Our colleague Christos Dedeloudis, the inventor

With an aim to highlight and promote the activities of scientific and research institutes and to popularize scientific knowledge, the **General Secretariat of Science and Technology (GSST)** of the **Greek Ministry of Development** organized again last year the *Science and Technology Festival* at the **Zap-peon Con-**



**ference and Exhibition Center**, from 27 November to 3 December 2008. Universities, research centers and technology institutes with an important output in new technologies participate in the Festival and exhibit the result of their research, either basic or applied, on a wide variety of topics, from medicine and biotechnology, to robotics and information technology, as well as environmental science and protection and other high

technology applications. Visitors have the opportunity to admire a large number of intelligent, funny, original and interactive achievements and hi-tech presentations. As is customary, the annual ceremony of the presentation of awards established by the GSST as well as the **Industrial Property Organization (IPO)**, which celebrated last year its 20th anniversary) was held within the framework of the Festival. The aim is to encourage ingenuity, to support inventors and to reward them financially as well as morally for their contribution to the country's technological progress. Last year's entries involved patent applications that were registered



with the IPO after 1 February 2002 and were published before 31 January 2007; most of them concentrated on high technology. After careful consideration by an evaluation committee, **Christos Foliass**, then Minister of Development, approved and presented four awards and financial rewards offered by the IPO to winners in four different categories. Our colleague **Christos Dede-**

**loudis**, product development engineer at the Perlite Division's Technical Development Department, together with two associates, won top prize for their invention titled "A new method for the production of ceramic structures of high porosity and high mechanical strength". Warm congratulations, Christos, and may you design many more inventions!