



The photograph, above, is of an acetylene panel which was shipped off from BJ Industries (Gas Safety UK Division) to the Sahara Desert earlier this month.

From the beginning of this project with the London-based client this summer, this has been a challenging and, at times, demanding experience for all concerned.

Once installed, the panel will provide an acetylene supply to a pilot ignition system for a gas turbine. This, in turn, will provide power and heat to an oil refinery. The fact that this is a small component in a large project didn't mean that the technical difficulties would be simplified.

The key challenge was to design and construct a 2 x 1 manual changeover manifold that would withstand the rigours of the desert climate: -20 to +50 degrees centigrade, up to 90% humidity, high airborne salinity and high winds with sand scour.

By UK standards what you can see here is over-engineered – but it certainly looked the part! Let's hope that it still does in two years time.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Peter Wakefield and Rob Dalby for their parts in all of this; Rob successfully tracked down the required cylinder connectors (to Italy – the cylinders they use out there have UNI cylinder valves) and, according to Peter, managed to get the wrong pressure gauges. Peter sorted these out, along with actually building and testing the panel, and even took the oil company's Inspector out to lunch. Well done!

Truth be told, in spite of the hassles, when this went into the packing case and was taken away to the shipping agent, it was quite a sad moment.

Over the last few weeks, stainless steel gas control and safety equipment seems to have become quite the thing here – we've also shipped some special high pressure hydrogen equipment off to Canada.

These types of project reflect the fact that we are about delivering real solutions to real gas safety issues and that we are able to draw upon a 'pool' of expertise that is unique. This is, of course, only because of the people involved because it's the people who make the difference.



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