



THE ARTECHE GROUP INCREASES ITS PRODUCTION CAPACITY IN ARGENTINA WITH A NEW PLANT

- o The new location represents an investment totaling over three million dollars.
- o The modern facilities make it possible to optimize the production process and increase export capacity.

The ARTECHE Group, international benchmark in the development of electrical solutions and equipment, has opened a new industrial plant in the city of Cordoba (Argentina) with a production capacity that will make it possible to reach an annual production of 30 million dollars.

The new infrastructure has a built area of 5,882 m² on land measuring three hectares and today employs over 200 people, including qualified workers and professionals in various disciplines.

The opening of this plant, which represents an investment of over three million dollars, is the result of the ARTECHE Group's commitment to Argentina and its growth through internationalization, expanding its selection of products and solutions and achieving an optimal position in order to effectively address the challenges which the sector will face in the future.

The new facilities were designed with a view to expanding the Group's production and service capacity in response to MERCOSUR's growing energy needs, considering the competitiveness of the economic reality of the region in comparison with the other regions of the world. This will make it possible to not only supply the local and regional markets, but will also open up new horizons for customers on other continents.

Through its company AIT S.A., the ARTECHE Group in Argentina has a sales office in the city of Buenos Aires, with the aim of providing all its customers with direct and continuous access to the technical and sales support they may require. Nevertheless, it is in the new plant located in Ferreyra - Cordoba where the manufacturing related to High and Very High Voltage Outdoor Instrument

Transformers will be centered, products for which ARTECHE is a brand with worldwide renowned prestige. This investment project includes the opening of new production lines like capacitive instrument transformers and the incorporation of a broad range of products and solutions that today the Group manufactures at other geographic locations. In this way, it is reaffirming the ongoing effort towards innovation in the search for more efficient solutions, through the use of the appropriate technologies and resources, thus strengthening its position in the market. The aim of this work is to design innovative, competitive, environmentally-advanced and flexible equipment.

Ten years after ARTECHE made a commitment to manufacture its products in Argentina, these new facilities, together with the industrial plant in Curitiba in Brazil, will make it possible to manufacture most of its products and solutions in MERCOSUR itself.

A decision that is supported by a clear philosophy of contribution to the socio-economic development of all the areas in which the ARTECHE Group sets up its production plants and which, in the case of Argentina, will make it possible to increase its production capacity with an eye to different markets, significantly increasing its export capacity.

Facilities

The building of the plant began in the second half of 2007. The transfer was completed and the plant was put into operation in February of this year, at which point it was running at full capacity. Thanks to its strategic location in an industrial area, the transport of loads, reception of raw materials and sending of finished products are made easier, resulting in significantly better operation.

The 4,400 m² of the industrial warehouse were complemented by 1,100 m² of modern offices, 260 m² of a dining area and a large space for staff changing rooms. All the facilities were designed in accordance with advanced parameters with regard to lighting levels, industrial safety and worker comfort.

Also noteworthy in the new plant is the expansion of the area dedicated to innovation, research and quality control, doubling the area dedicated to laboratories. This investment also represents an important opportunity to increase the engineering department's development capacity, thus having a technology equation and adequate know-how.

Constant growth and a strong commitment to the project

In line with the Group's corporate philosophy, steps are being taken towards multicultural development, taking advantage of the synergies of the geographic distribution of the plants around the world, strengthening the development of each member of the organization, and making sure that knowledge is freely and actively shared in an environment of trust and participation.

The aim is to create value for the organization, the company and its customers and suppliers, all of which are involved in the business, and to ensure that all this can generate added value within the corporate environment. The company and its employees plan for the long-term. The growth projections require constant growth in personnel and a strong commitment from everyone to the project.

The Arteche Group around the world

The Group offers solutions and products in the areas of generation, transmission, distribution and industry. It holds an important position at the international level in its sector and is one of the three largest manufacturers of instrument transformers in the world. Its products are present in 130 countries and its production centers employ over 1,900 workers. It is a technological benchmark in permanent support in every country where it has industrial facilities. It has thirteen companies in Europe, America and Asia, as well as a service comprised of more than 80 technical/sales offices.

ARTECHE has substantially increased and strengthened its presence in the electricity market over recent years, diversifying the products it offers and quadrupling its turnover in the last decade. Embarked on a development plan that aims to consolidate its leadership in instrument transformers, the Group is also positioning itself in new areas of activity: the automation of electrical distribution, energy quality and renewable energy. The latter involves the creation of the Turnkey Systems Business Unit, which focuses on all aspects of wind farm construction: engineering, equipment provision, civil and electromechanical works, wind turbine assembly, commissioning and start-up.

This is ARTECHE's response to the demands of competitive management in the deregulated electricity sector: supply quality and efficiency, in their three main aspects, i.e. economic, energetic and environmental.

About Arteche

ARTECHE has over 60 years of experience offering solutions to its customers within the ELECTRICITY SECTOR, in generation, transmission, distribution and industry. Efficiency and reliability are the criteria on which the Arteche Group bases its activity. Thanks to this reality, its products and solutions are present in over 130 countries, 13 companies in Europe, America and Asia and more than 80 Technical/Sales Service Centers all over the world. by more than 80 technical-commercial offices.