

After half a century of work, most of the old agglomeration of the Smederevo ironworks will go down in history, and will be replaced by a new and modern plant, much larger capacity – instead of 1.3 tons of sinter per year on four lines, it will produce about 1.7 million tons of sinter, and it only on one line.

In HBIS ironworks in Smederevo, construction works on the construction of a new agglomeration line were mostly completed, with a combination of concrete and steel construction with six transshipment nodes connected by conveyors. The works started in the summer of 2019, and now the first phase of equipment installation is underway. The commissioning of this plant, announced as a key investment in environmental protection, is delayed due to the slow transport of parts from China, but also the impossibility of the arrival of Chinese experts who, together with local engineers, participate in the construction. According to Vladan Mihailovic, the executive director for production, it is expected that cold rehearsals will start in June at the latest, and that production will start on July 1, 2021.

The new plant currently has the best available technology in terms of sinter production and environmental protection. For example, all gas purification systems will allow emissions of no more than 20 milligrams per cubic meter, which is currently probably the best result in all ironworks and agglomerations in Europe. Also, it will have a very modern plant for desulphurization of gases during the production of sinter, and the capacity of this plant will be 50 percent higher than the current one, said Vladan Mihailovic. The General Manager of the Environmental Protection Sector, Ljubica Drejk, emphasized that the new agglomeration will visibly improve the performance in the field of environmental protection. “Serbian law prescribes that it is allowed to emit 50 milligrams of powdery substances per cubic meter, and this plant is designed with a maximum emission of 20 mg, so we will have two and a half times lower emission than allowed. This kind of investment is done once in 50 years and I don’t know if it is currently being implemented somewhere in Europe. All eyes are on the air, we are all looking at the problems we have had so far with the operation of old plants, but there will be great progress, not only in air quality but also when it comes to wastewater. Current systems work on the principle of strubers using a lot of water, and these are all dry dedusting systems. Water savings will be large, on the principle of zero water – zero wastewater discharge. All raw materials that we process here and that are separated through the dedusting system, will immediately be able to return to the production process, without any subsequent treatment, which is now the case. The improvement will be big and visible and all the systems are completely new”, said Drejk, emphasizing that the old agglomeration does not have a system for desulphurization of

gases, and the new one will have one.

Milovan Tasic, general manager of engineering and investments, announced new projects, but also current ones that are being worked on in parallel with the new agglomeration line. The step furnace is located about 1.5 kilometers from the new agglomeration and should reduce pollution due to the emission of gas from the blast furnace into the atmosphere, as well as the costs of production of hot-rolled products. The total investment is 160 million dollars, and it includes an agglomeration, a step furnace, a tank for high-furnace gas and a number two converter.

Source: politika.rs