

Ladies and Gentlemen!

This time, we have prepared a special issue of our newsletter magazine to report on the celebration of the 175th anniversary of the Foundry, which took place on 2nd August, 2013.

The celebration started the day before - on 1st August. That was also the day of the traditional annual METALPOL Friends meeting - i.e. our best customers and suppliers. It gave us the opportunity to present to our Partners the main past year achievements of our company, as well as to share with them our plans for the months and years to come. The attendance turned out high - the meeting attracted more than 40 people not only from Poland, but also from Lithuania, Netherlands, Romania, Slovakia and the United Kingdom. To while away the evening and to refer to regional traditions, we invited Children's Regional Team „Mały Haśnik” from Żabnica. The show was sensational! The guests were impressed by the abilities, skills, spontaneity and the involvement of the children. The audience asked for more and more! A nice touch was added by making a remark by the Team's trainer Ms. Grażyna Feil reminding the fact, that Adam Żyrek - current Head of Technical Services in METALPOL, was once an active member of the Team and a very talented dancer as well. During the feast around the campfire, the workers of our Sales Department and members of the Board had the opportunity to conduct informal discussions and to exchange opinions with our Counterparties.

Early in the morning the following day, i.e. 2nd August, all the staff gathered in the Municipal Sports Hall to take, just as they did on the occasion of 100th Anniversary, a common picture of the whole crew, followed by the photo shoot of all departments.

The photograph is attached to the following issue.

At 11:00 sharp, right before METALPOL Headquarters, the official celebrations of the 175th Anniversary of the Company kicked off. The celebrations were graced with the presence of many eminent individuals, to begin with the Prime Minister and President of the European Parliament - professor Jerzy Buzek. The list of the guests included the following: Member of Polish Parliament - Margaret Pepek, Mr. Andrew Gościński - Chairman of Silesia Province

Assembly, Councilmen of Silesia Assembly - Janusz Buzek, Andrzej Marszałek and Marian Ormaniec, Mr. Stanisław Dąbrowa - member of Silesian Regional Board, Mr. Andrzej Kalata - deputy of Żywiec county, Mr. Antoni Szlagor - President of City Council in Żywiec, Mr. Piotr Tyrlik - Mayor of Węgierska Górka Community, Mr. Stanisław Ferster - Chairman of the Sołęcka Board, Mrs. Renata Madejczyk - Mayor of Węgierska Górka, Professor Jerzy Zych - Dean of the Founding Faculty of University of Science and Technology in Kraków, Mr. Tadeusz Franaszek - President of the Polish Foundrymen Association in Krakow, Mr. Jerzy Sobczak - Director of the Institute of Founding in Kraków, Professor Janusz Szpytko - Board Chairman of the Association of Engineers and Technicians in Steel Industry, Father Stanisław Bogacz - Parish Priest of the Roman-Catholic Church in Cięcina, Pastor Henry Mach - Parson of Lutheran Parish in Bielsko-Biala, Professor Jerzy Buzek's relatives with his grandson, also named Jerzy. A large group of distinguished employees and persons related to the Foundry were also present - among which was a senior of the meeting, 92-year-old Mr. Władysław Adamiec - Director of the Foundry in the years 1956 - 1978 and Mr Jean-Pierre Frot - Chairman of the Board in 2000-2005, in 2006-2010 - Chairman of the Supervisory Board.



After having welcomed the guests, what I did myself as Chairman of the Board, the speaker was Mr. Prime Minister, Professor Jerzy Buzek, who in a very warm and emotional speech presented merits of his great-uncle - Director of the Foundry in the years 1911-1939, presented his memories of Węgierska Górka and shared his feelings about the history and development of METALPOL achievements in recent years and the present. Record of the speech can be found on the following pages.

Celebrations of 175th Anniversary of the Cast Iron Foundry 02.VIII 2013



A speech was also delivered by the Municipality Administrator - Mayor Piotr Tyrlik, reminding the history of the Company, as well as the achievements of its most eminent Director - professor Jerzy Buzek.



Finally, few words were spoken by Professor's nearest descendant - his grandson, living in Kraków and also bearing the name Jerzy, whose father - Stanisław - was also the director of the Foundry in 1946-1948. In his speech, he expressed gratitude for resurrecting the memory of his Grandfather and for reminding his merits, as well as for inviting so many Buzek's family representatives to this solemn ceremony.



The next event during the celebration, delivered by Mr. Andrzej Gościński, was handing decoration badges 'Meritorious for Silesian Province'.



The Jury awarded a gold badge to METALPOL - but actually both to the Ironworks, existing for 175 years, later the Iron Foundry, and to all those who made particular contribution to its development in recent years - Mr. Władysław Adamiec, Władysław Płonka and myself, as well.

As a 'flesh and blood' Silesian man, born in the working-class district of Katowice - Shopienice, I was very touched to have received the award, but also about the fact of my involvement and contribution to the renewal and development of the Foundry having been appreciated.

Mr. Andrzej Rejman got decorated with a Silver badge.



Another point of the celebration, conducted by the Chairman of the Council Jacek Ksenia and myself, was the awarding 'Meritorious for the Foundry' medals to the people of great service to the Factory's history and development. In fact, the medals should have been handed to many more ex- and current Foundry workers who devoted their energy, knowledge and competences for its existence and

further development. Unfortunately, the organizational framework and schedule were too tight to allow for that. Therefore, we had to choose representatives of all departments and periods in the history of the Company. Their photos and profiles are presented in the following pages.

From this place and not being able to honour all those who deserve it, on behalf of the Board and Supervisory Committee, I would like to congratulate all those who worked or continue to work in the Factory for many years, but have not been called to the badges. We all remember You and thank You all for a piece of your life left in the factory, through which it has existed continuously for 175 years, and still continues to grow. I can assure You that we will proudly continue your work. History obliges – and it is You who have created it in the past. and it is us who will proudly create what once will be called history. Thank You all for everything!!

On behalf of the honoured, the speaker was Mr. Władysław Adamiec (aged 92), who thanked for the memory, congratulated on the achievements in recent years and wished good luck in our future endeavours. I was among those who had tears in their eyes to the sight of Mr. Adamiec's visit to the Company, to which he's devoted 28 years of his life, and which owes so much to him.



Few words were also spoken by Mr. Jean-Pierre FROT (aged 82), the founder and former President of the French CF2M Foundry Group, which took over the Company in 2000, introduced the modern organization and management systems resulting in factory's great return back to top of founding industry in Poland. He was also very touched by remembering about him and his invitation to the ceremony, as well as expressed admiration for recent developments. He wished us all continued success and hoped to meet with us again to celebrate the occasion of the 200th anniversary!



After the memories and bringing back the history, it was the moment to look ahead, especially into the future being now created by the youth. Mr. Janusz Buzek, Member of the funded by METALPOL Jerzy Buzek's Scholarship Committee, and Silesia Assembly Councillor, together with the Chairman of the Board - Jacek Ksenia handed the diplomas confirming professor Jerzy Buzek's grants awarded to the first METALPOL scholarship holders. Prime Minister Jerzy Buzek personally congratulated the scholarship holders, pointing out the commitment of METALPOL in social life of Municipality and their support for educational needs of the youth in Węgierska Górka. He also mentioned challenges the scholarship recipients are facing in order to proudly represent METALPOL in universities they have chosen for themselves.



Afterwards, the Jury members of the 'Cast Iron Founding – our Passion' artistic contest dedicated for children and young people from schools in the Municipality, awarded the prizes and diplomas to the winners. The photos of the best works can be seen on the Company's website, and soon all the works will be exhibited in the municipal Sports Hall.





After the ceremony had finished at METALPOL Headquarters and the photos had been taken, we moved on towards the square located right next to the Foundry.

According to the decision by Municipal Council, the square got named after professor Jerzy Buzek, who was a Director of the Foundry in years 1911 - 1939.

At the square, the above was followed by the unveiling of the professor Jerzy Buzek's monument, performed by a foremost Silesian sculptor - Bogumił Burzyński. The monument has been made of cast iron - a material that was so dear to professor. It was manufactured in METALPOL, with special merits to its implementation to one excellent former – Bogdan Biegun, as well as to the pattern maker - Mr. Marek Talik.

I conducted the unveiling ceremony altogether with the companion of Prime Minister Jerzy Buzek, his grandson Jerzy Buzek and the host of the District - mayor Piotr Tyrlik.



The monument blends perfectly with its surrounding, and the authorities of the District have promised, that soon the area will look equally significantly. It's so nice to see as the tourists and the residents stop by the monument, sit down on nearby benches and study a commemorative plaque. Coming soon, a didactic board will stand near the monument providing information about the history of the community, the history of the Factory and about Professor Buzek himself.

Professor's family took a number of pictures, posing right at the monument of their ancestor; the picture shows four men with J.Buzek initials, to the left: Jerzy Buzek - grandson, Jerzy Buzek – Prime Minister and Janusz Buzek - Silesia Assembly Councillor. Professor Jerzy Buzek is looking at them from behind.



After the unveiling of the monument, all the invited guests continued the ceremony in Arteria Restaurant, where the congratulation diplomas and souvenirs for

METALPOL were handed into my hands by representatives of local authorities, scientific and research facilities and cooperating companies workers. The gifts can be seen at the METALPOL website: www.metalpol.com.

Below, some photos commemorating those moving moments.



Congratulations submitted by Mayor of the District Piotr Tyrlik, altogether with the Vice-mayor Marian Kurowski.



Compliments from MP Małgorzata Pepek.



Greetings from the President of Leszno - Tomasz Malepszy.



Congratulations from a representative of AGH Professor Assoc. Jerzy Zych – Professor J.Buzek prize winner, awarded by AGH.

In order for our guests to get acquainted with our Company, we presented a film on METALPOL, with music by Wołosi. The film made a really strong impression on viewers. Finally, the WOŁOSI Band, with their stunning virtuosity and dynamism started their performance, providing viewers with genuine passion for music. That was the same sort of passion we show for iron cast founding!



There were also traditional 'Happy Birthday' wishes, but this time the goal was not the common 'live long for 100 hundred years', but '200 years to live!' wishes. And in the evening, under the tent put up next to the Sports Hall, the company Workers and their families met to celebrate together. We danced, sang and had lots of fun, accompanied by Miłówka Band music until late at night.

I am convinced this historical day made us all realize the values we are all holding and sharing: tradition, effort, work and creati-

vity of our ancestors.

We must not let them down - history oblige!

Again, as during Their time, our company will become a leader in founding industry in Poland.

I am entirely certain that all who consider themselves as members of METALPOL team – will not fail and will be fully involved in our joint venture and the activities to bring back the glory to our Company one day!

So I wish us all best of luck in the realization of this noble purpose - and I am sure that we will achieve it in the coming years

*Marek PODGRODZKI
President of the Board*

DECORATED WITH THE MEDAL „DISTINGUISHED FOR THE FOUNDRY”

Below, the photos taken during the medal ceremony „Distinguished for the Foundry „. For more information on those who were honoured, see website at the Virtual Foundry Museum:

<http://historia.metalpol.com> in the „Gallery of the Distinguished”.



Jan Ficoń



Władysław Adamiec



Jacek Dziedzic



Andrzej Figura



Jean-Pierre FROT



Jan Brączek



Władysław Dziedzic



Wiesław Augustynowicz



Stanisław Dziedzic



Andrzej Jagła



Aleksander Jurasz



Sławomir Okular



Sylwester Sobel



Jan Jurasz



Stanisław Klimas



Roman Tetlak



Maria Kubica



Władysław Płonka



Stanisław Suchanek



Stanisław Juraszek



Franciszek Piela



Piotr Tyrlik



Marian Michalski



Andrzej Rejman



Włodzimierz Walaszek



Władysław Madejczyk



Małgorzata Pawlus



Kazimierz Trzeciak



Stanisław Noga



Kazimierz Tetlak



Andrzej Błażusiak



Speech by the President of the Board METALPOL Węgierska Górką, Marek PODGRODZKI

delivered 2nd August, 2013 at the celebration
of 175th anniversary of the Company.



Ladies and Gentlemen!

I have an extraordinary honour today to be standing here, in the very same place where 75 years ago Adam WIELOPOLSKI laid a cornerstone for the construction of the ironworks, later converted into a cast iron foundry.

Little did he know at the time what a huge impact this would have on this land and its inhabitants.

He could not have imagined how many thousands of employees during the following 175 years would bind their fate and the lives of their families with the Factory.

He could not have foreseen that just a few those huts, at the time Węgierka Górką manor, would develop to such extent so that in 1973 it would lead to establishment of a municipality.

He had no idea how many great people should devote years and sometimes their whole lives to the development of the Company.

The great majority of these people now still live in our memory.

Among them, the most prominent is Professor Jerzy BUZEK, the Director of the Factory in years 1911 - 1939, thanks to whom the liquidation of the ironworks led to the establishment and development of the foundry and the factory in Węgierska Górką became the European leader in the production of pipes, fittings and valves.

May we give honour to him by exposing the monument.

Today, standing right in this place, I am pleased to welcome, in addition to all the distinguished guests - several highly meritorious Employees of the Factory.

I am particularly honoured to welcome two exceptional individuals, who engraved their names in the letters of gold in the history of the Foundry, especially considering the times closer to present:

Mr. Władysław ADAMIEC - Director of Foundry in 1950 - 1978, thanks to whom the factory grew exceptionally well in those times. While being in charge of the Company the DISAMATIC moulding machine was installed - the 'bread and butter' for the Foundry until today, as well as Mr. Jean-Pierre FROT who in 2000, being at the time the Chairman and major shareholder of the French CF2M casting group, took a bold decision of purchasing one remote and located far away

from Paris - declining foundry in Węgierska Górką. During his presidency, the plant got completely reorganized and restructured. The second casting line was installed - BMD line, and the organization and management of the Company was based due to the standards current in Western Europe.

The Factory also owes its present name to Mr. FROT - it was him who came up with the name 'METALPOL'.

I am also happy to welcome all the distinguished Guests, who arrived in Węgierska Górką to join us in celebration of 175th anniversary of the Factory:

- the Polish Prime Minister, the President of the European Parliament and MEP - Professor Jerzy Buzek, who agreed to take over the patronage of the jubilee celebrations and honoured us with his presence;
- present hereby, Member of Parliament of the Republic of Poland, Mrs. Małgorzata PEPEK
- representatives of the Silesian province and local district authorities;
- Węgierska Górką government municipality officials with the mayor - Piotr TYRLIK, Żywiec district government officials, as well as representatives of other towns, districts and municipalities;
- representatives of academic field and scientists connected to founding industry;
- representatives of the Catholic and Evangelical Church;
- Professor Jerzy Buzek's relatives, altogether with his grandson - also named Jerzy;
- representatives of our Customers, Partners and Suppliers, who arrived not only from all across Poland, but also from many other European countries.

I'm warmly greeting, as present in the ceremony - METALPOL Friends, and people who are closest to my heart, as well as my family to whom I'm truly grateful for their daily support and understanding.

Last, but not least I wholeheartedly welcome METALPOL Employees, without the involvement of whom all the daily work and effort towards the development of the Company today's celebration would not have been held.

The history is just as important for the Company as our ancestors are important for us. The priceless value is what they managed to convey to our grandparents and parents, and the latter did the same to us.

It's as important for the Company - the goal is development, which in turn is based, as every construction - on the foundations, which for the company means experience and expertise, as well as the unity and passion for the project on the whole. And when one has so glorious a past as the Foundry in Węgierska Górką, and as eminent personalities who directed and developed it, one mustn't hesitate to draw inspiration from the history in order to march towards the even greater future.

Looking back in the past years, I've got a great deal of satisfaction from what we have all achieved. Starting from the ruined factory, we created one of the leading foundries in Poland. We can all be proud of a job done so well.

Congratulations to all of your individual accomplishments and achievements, which - as combined together - make for the current success of METALPOL!

And now, when we really are in the forefront, there's nothing left for us to do but once again become a leader, as the Ironworks used to be in the 19th century, i.e. Fittings Factory during the interwar period and FAiO during the communist regime.

We are bound to achieve this goal if we all, constant and consequent in everyday routine and as we have continued since year 2000 - stick to the motto of my life, which has also become the motto for METALPOL:

'Those, who do not try to be better - cease to be good'.

Speech by the Prime Minister, Member of the European Parliament since 2004, President of the European Parliament, professor Jerzy BUZEK

delivered 2nd August, 2013 at the celebration of 175th anniversary of METALPOL Węgierska Górka.



During the 175th Anniversary Celebrations of Węgierska Górka Foundry, a speech was given by professor Jerzy Buzek, a Prime Minister 1997-2001, Chairman of the PE 2009-2012, Member of the European Parliament since 2004.

At the beginning of his speech, he warmly thanked for the honour and trust he has been granted by the Management of the Company, assigning him a patronage over the celebration of the 175th anniversary of the Factory.

'It's a touching moment for me, that I can go back in time and by saying these few words return to the bosom of my country', he said to the audience gathered in front of the main office building, and he added: 'I'm from around here, my family is from this land, my roots lie here. Buzek surname is permanently connected to this land and Węgierska Górka, to a large extent thanks to my grandfather, and at the same time, my namesake - Jerzy Buzek, the Director of the Foundry from 1911 until 1939'.

Then, the Prime Minister mentioned several important episodes from his great uncle's CV, pointing out that fact that he was born in 1874 in Końska near Trzyniec, and that his father was a mere farmer. Thanks to his spirit and perseverance he graduated from national school, then received a faculty, next he finished German middle school in Cieszyn, and afterwards he studied at the Mining Academy in Loeben, where he graduated and received a diploma in mining and became a founding engineer. He began his career as an engineer in Metallurgical Plant in Trzyniec, however his whole professional life, since 1911, was tied with Węgierska Górka. That was the place where former ironworks, and later Cast Iron Foundry - became his place in the world, where he could follow his passions and fulfil his dreams.

The Prime Minister J.Buzek reminded, that it was his 'namesake' who recommended to the Board of Directors managing Habsburg Archduke

goods that in place of ironworks to be closed down due to exhaustion of iron ore deposits in the nearby mines, it would be better to expand the foundry, which at the time was functioning as a facility overshadowed by the ironworks. The Directors agreed to his suggestions and left the enterprise for him, therefore in 1911 promoting him to the position of Chief Executive of the Factory in Węgierska Górka.

'And only thanks to his persistence', continued a kind of laudation on his great-uncle – 'and hard work, both his own, as well as many of his colleagues, did he manage to create one of the best companies in the foundry industry and valve manufacturing during the interwar years in Europe. The company offering employment to many generations of residents of the Municipality and the surrounding area'.

The Prime Minister highlighted the fact that 'the whole theory of the cupola, created at the beginning of 20th century, is basically rooted in Węgierska Górka, and the scientific enterprise, accordingly created in AGH in Krakow, went around the globe. 'As a result, the cupola process got improved in several places around the planet', he said, adding that we also can be proud of it, because this theory was co-invented here, in Węgierska Górka, i.e. the theory of the cupola, which was of fundamental importance to the field, and that the whole story was taking place far in the past, a hundred years ago.

Next, after a short tour, professor Jerzy Buzek got familiar with the history of the plant, talked to few employees and met persons currently in charge of the Company. 'It was from the President, Mr. Marek Podgrodzki, that I learned that today's glorious and modern foundry has until quite recently been in a very poor condition. The Factory was threatened by liquidation, and thus the loss of employment for many people'.

Addressing the staff and the Board, the Prime Minister said: 'I am truly convinced that there must be something in these historical turns- because again, exactly 100 years after my Uncle, a man appeared – Your current President, who has found the purpose of his life in Węgierska Górka, and after the hardships the Factory is getting reborn again, like a Phoenix from the ashes. It is developing, manufacturing goods, providing employment and maintenance for several hundred residents, having become a leading foundry in Poland. Perhaps it is so that if you have a passion and believe in what one is doing, one can really change the reality around. I am truly glad and delighted that such people are still here, in Węgierska Górka.

Your company today play an important role in Żywiecczyzna, especially when it comes to supporting and initiating social initiatives. It's so truly amazing that your company invests in young people, those who live in the municipality, by funding the scholarships, so they deepen their knowledge in universities'.

At the end of his speech to all the METALPOL staff, including CEO Mr. Marek Podgrodzki, the Prime Minister wished that they soon join the European leaders in their field, and that they work not only for tangible benefits, but above all - for their own satisfaction. Afterwards, he added with strong emphasis: 'I also wish that METALPOL Węgierska Górka products glorify the name of the Community, not only in Poland and Europe, but also on other continents. I wish your dreams for further development of 175-year-old Factory should soon become reality'.

Henryk A. Kretek - Director of professor Jerzy Buzek Parliamentary Office



Speech by the President of the Board METALPOL Węgierska Górka, Marek PODGRODZKI

delivered at the unveiling of the monument
of Professor Jerzy Buzek, 2nd August, 2013.



We are just about to unfold the monument commemorating the greatest Foundry Director in Węgierska Górka – i.e. professor Jerzy Buzek.

The author of the monument is one outstanding Silesian artist and sculptor – Bogumił BURZYŃSKI, whereas the architectural concept of the square is by equally eminent local architect - Maciej WIEWIÓRA.

I would like to congratulate both of them on their talent and express gratitude for these wonderful works. As these are the works they have put a part of themselves into, which will remain among us ever since here in Węgierska Górka. Thank you both, Mr. Bogumił and Mr. Maciej!

METALPOL, on the other hand, have set a point of honour to raise this monument with what we've got at our disposal – as the material is not bronze, but cast iron - a material which was dearest to the Professor's heart. Although the devices the Foundry got at its disposal are designed mainly for mass production, rather than single works of art - thanks to the efforts and devotion of the staff we managed to cast the statue.

To all who have participated in this project, a former Bogdan Biegun in particular, on behalf of the Board I would like to sincerely congratulate and thank all of you.

I would also like to express my appreciation to the Community Council and its Administrator - Piotr Tyrlik, for cooperation in the implementation of this project.

I am aware that the Mayor has further plans for the development of the square and soon the site will become a showpiece and pride of Węgierska Górka.

Professor Buzek was not only one eminent scientist, a prominent manager, as we in Poland like to say today, but also a unique social and government worker who dedicated his efforts to the people of this land.

At this very moment, standing on the square bearing his name, the Professor will look out at the workers entering the Foundry, at the councillors and officials entering the community building and the tourists visiting Węgierska Górka. The monument will remind us of the fact that it is the Professor to whom the Factory owes its name, and to whom the local community owes its development.

Professor Buzek is a highly symbolic figure:

- A role model for young people, an example of a successful life – how, coming from a simple farmers family, through hard work, persistence and willpower, one becomes an outstanding scientist, but also the „captain of industry” and one of the contributors to Polish economic success within inter-war period.
- An embodiment of the motto saying ‘everything is possible’, a sign showing directions and speaking words ‘you should never give up and always move forward’. Professor’s life is an evidence that creating a European industrial leadership in a small village is possible, as it happened in Węgierska Górka, where the nearly liquidated ironworks was turned into a successful Foundry.
- Last but not least, he was an example of ecumenism – during a time when Professor, an Evangelical - was the mayor in Cięcina in 1925-1927, new Catholic rectory was raised, and the bells for St. Catherine Church were purchased. In this context, the proximity of two monuments: on the one hand, the one raised in honour of John Paul II, the Pope and the great Pole, and on the other hand - Professor Jerzy Buzek - one of the most prominent Węgierska Górka citizen, clearly becomes a highly symbolic event and a part of the ecumenical work of John Paul II pontificate.

May this monument becomes a symbol for all of us, showing the path to economic success, as well as leading us towards social development to be achieved through knowledge, perseverance, work, passion and tolerance.

