

2nd QUARTER 2022

SOCAR Polymer Newsletter / Issue 38 / 2022

IN THIS ISSUE:



Turnaround activities of 2022



Career Fair attended



SOCAR Polymer brought holiday joy to 100 families



7,385,144
Man-hours LTI Free

Message from the General Manager



Dear colleagues,

It is time to summarize the outcomes of the past quarter and it is pleasant to see our company having moved forward as planned.

In June, SOCAR Polymer obtained three IMS certificates for correspondence to respective international standards applicable to the Quality Management System, Environmental Management System, and Occupational Health & Safety Management System of our company. The assessment performed against 177 requirements produced zero major and zero minor findings, with the final report containing only 4 recommendations for improvement. The process of preparing for the assessment and obtaining the certificates lasted 14 months and was implemented exclusively through

SOCAR Polymer's internal resources, which is a pride-stirring fact.

Successful completion of turnaround activities known as TAR has also been one of the highlights of the second quarter of 2022. The role of the turnaround time in any industry is hard to overestimate. TAR activities help to not only increase the performance effectiveness of a facility but also ensure customer satisfaction since a flawlessly operating plant is one of the main ingredients that provide the desired quality of products.

I congratulate us all on the reached milestones and am looking forward to summarizing the outcomes of another fruitful half a year ahead of us.

Fuad Ahmadov
General Manager

Turnaround activities of 2022

Started early in April, turnaround (TAR) activities at PP and HDPE plants lasted about two months and were completed by the end of May. Over **2000 maintenance tasks** were to be completed during this year's planned TAR period: **1026 by the mechanical team, 261 by the electrical team, and 2107 by the instrumentation team.** The photo coverage below illustrates some of the tasks performed.

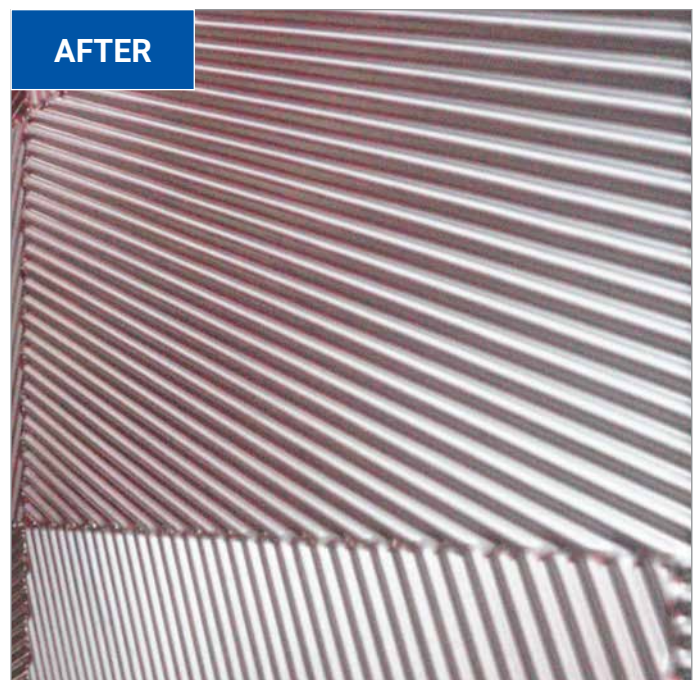
The typical kinds of tasks the Mechanical Team perform during TAR include HP jet/chemical cleaning; PSV/TSV recalibration; valve passing issue, overhaul/inspection; upgrading & modification activities (MOC), etc.



Heat exchanger plates washed in cleansing solution



Rinsing of cleaned heat exchanger plates



Heat exchanger plates before and after cleaning



Heat exchanger plates reassembled into packs



Gasket strips placed back onto heat exchanger plates



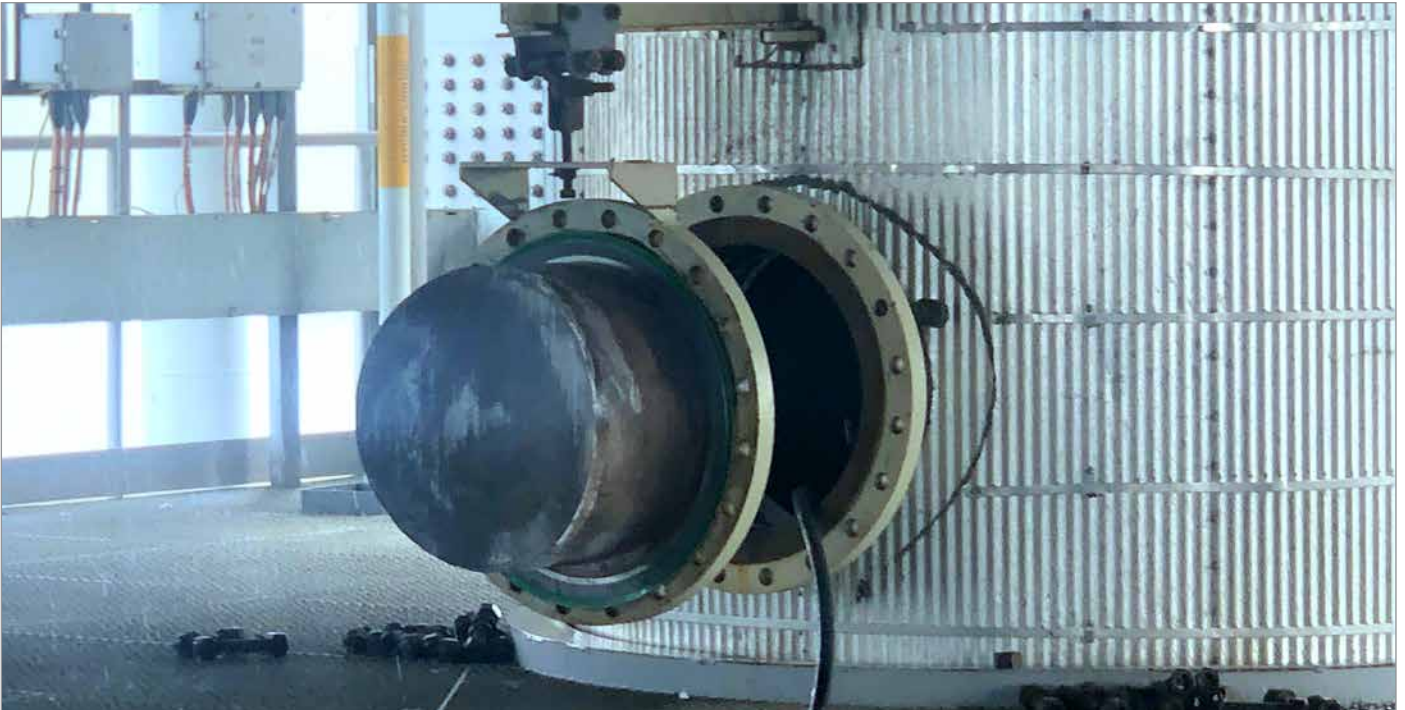
Valve maintenance: fixtures cleaned and lubricated



Manhole and blinds of flare drum were dismantled inside, cleaned with a hot water jet, and boxed up with new gaskets



D-1912 flare drum cleaning with hot water jetting



The manhole of the degasser drum was dismantled; the inside of the drum was cleaned, inspected and boxed up



A mechanical technician dismantled, cleaned, and boxed up of a horizontal-type shell-and-tube heat exchanger in the HDPE polymerization area.



The tube and the shell side of a vertical-type heat exchanger dismantled in the PP polymerization area was cleaned and boxed up

What is TAR in general?

Let's get the basics out of the way, now. A turnaround is a highly expensive planned period of regeneration at a production facility. During this time, an entire part of the operation is offlined whilst plants are inspected and revamped. These turnarounds can be due to a need for maintaining, renovating, or refitting facilities.

In maintenance, a turnaround (TAR) is **an event where one or more assets are temporarily removed from service so that maintenance tasks can be performed.**

Turnaround activities require well-organised labour and equipment for a few weeks at a time – the duration of which are usually measured in shifts. Most facilities will be inspected during shutdowns and turnarounds, and so

may have their turnaround extended if additional issues are flagged.

Turnaround activities include preventative care of equipment, general corrective repair of faults, strip-downs, complete replacement and overhaul, or maintenance.

The goal for all types of interruption should be to achieve a return to normal process within time, on budget, with no harm to staff, and with as little unplanned work as possible. Additional goals often include a forward plan which should aim to extend the period between shutdowns, and set out how to implement short, targeted periods of maintenance. Shutdown and turnaround managers are few and far between, and a smooth cessation and resumption of business is a difficult thing to achieve.

The typical tasks the Electrical Team members perform during TAR include inspection and upgrading / modification (MOC) of motors, panels, heaters, switchgear, transformers, etc.

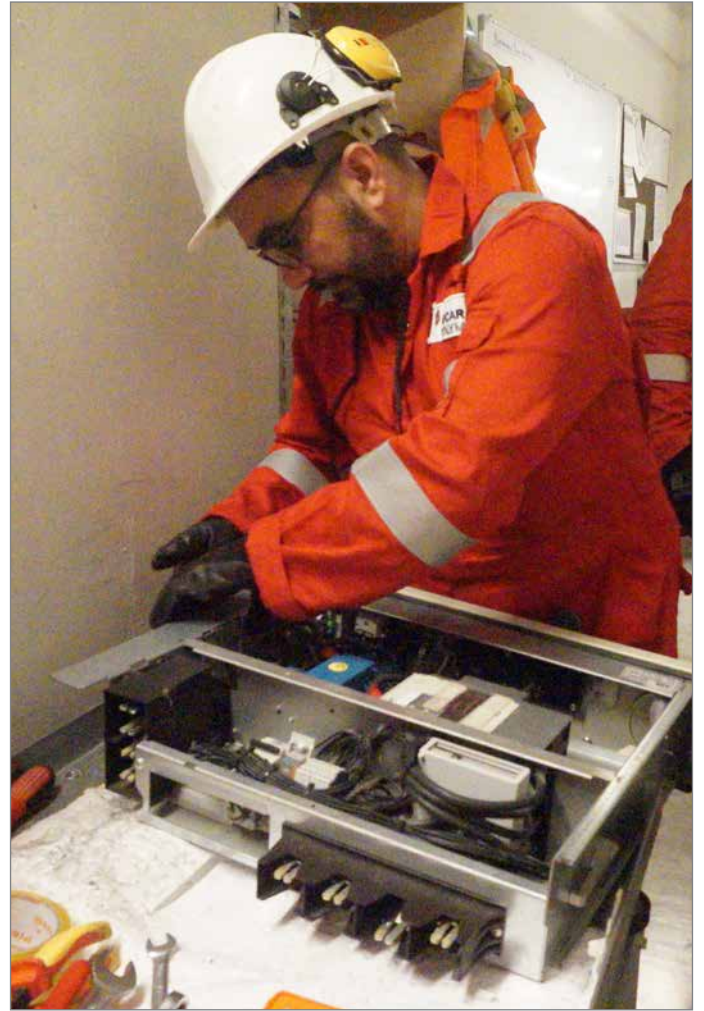


Maintenance performed on power transformers



Protection relay and control circuits' testing with Omicron device at the substation





Maintenance of motor control cubicles that power-feed 0.4 kV equipment



Maintenance of electrical distribution boards

Planning successful shutdowns and turnarounds

This year, the Planning team widely applied the lessons learned from last year's turnaround experience. As a result, preparation for the TAR period was done thoroughly:

- the scope of TAR was optimized to only include shutdown-related activities
- material planning issues such as insufficiency were minimized
- bagging/WHSE issues had been solved before TAR started
- min/max levels of critical spare parts had been established
- the list of all shutdown spare parts was checked and sent to MM to arrange their dedication to TAR purposes
- lubrication and PSV&TSV calibration PM packages were created/updated in the SAP system
- the need for standard and special tools was identified and acted upon.

Good planning is often the key to success, and with shutdowns and turnarounds, it is no less true.

The typical kinds of tasks the Instrumentation Team perform during TAR include inspection of control valves, ON/OFF valves, deluge, and other valves; inspection of level, pressure, and temperature transmitters; upgrading & modification activities (MOC); etc.

Often, the best way to plan ahead for a shutdown or turnaround is to evaluate as soon as one has been completed. This will allow a company to learn from any mistakes, and to have a plan laid out years in advance. Not only are these events engineering- and maintenance-led, but they have significant impacts on all parts of the business – from the shareholders to the suppliers.

Major shutdowns are dependent upon research into other similar events within the company or at partners' industrial facilities, and upon cooperation across divisions and teams. All major industrial and production companies are committed to developing both their scientific and service knowledge, ensuring that shutdowns prioritize what is best from a technical and customer point of view.

Equipment in need of maintenance, repair, or replacement should all be identified in advance, and the necessary resources, equipment, and personnel prepared on the back of this. Last-minute changes and alterations may still occur, but with strong planning, deviations can be accommodated safely.



Recalibration of a level transmitter



Recalibration of pressure safety valves (PSVs)



Inspection, maintenance (cleaning), and troubleshooting of Coriolis mass flowmeters to ensure measurement accuracy and long-term consistent operation

A polymerization reactor is the heart and core of any polymer production facility. It is a 55-meters-tall structure that provides the conditions necessary for running a polymerization reaction. Its cleaning has been one of the TAR targets.



BEFORE



AFTER





A polymerization reactor is the heart and core of any polymer production facility. It is a 55-meters-tall structure that provides the conditions necessary for running a polymerization reaction. Its cleaning has been one of the TAR targets.

For instance, pressure valves were calibrated during the TAR by a third party, and the failing PSVs were sent to their temporary on-site workshop for repair. Valve technicians disassembled valves, repaired them or replaced certain parts with spares, and boxed valves back up.



Pressure Safety Valves repaired in the workshop



The C-2801 dry crew compressor was overhauled for preventative maintenance. The vendor (Aerzen company, Turkey) disassembled the compressor, inspected it, replaced the recommended part, and boxed the compressor up



A turner preparing a special tool in the turning machine for installation of a bearing during overhaul of the C-2801 dry screw compressor



Installation of a retractable system for aircraft warning lights on the flare

The first stage was carried out before the TAR period and included civil construction works: excavation, backfill, reinforced concrete works, etc. Based on drawings, the contractor prepared the foundation for installing 3 aircraft warning lights. In the second stage carried out during the TAR period, the flame of the tower was extinguished and the contractor performed installation of the system and tested welding work, equipment accessories, and equipment in the tower.





During the TAR period, a broad range of activities was carried out at the site laboratory which has over 150 pieces of equipment normally operated 24/7 when PP and HDPE production is on. The shutdown period is a good time to perform overall maintenance of all laboratory equipment, cleaning, and replacement of worn parts with spares. Apart from that, all equipment that performs a measuring function, as well as all active methods were re-calibrated. Method calibration of analytical instruments is very important and requires preparation of suitable standards for the calibration of GC-FID, GC-TCD, GC-MSD, ICP and other devices.



All equipment that performs a measuring function are calibrate during the shutdown period, in order to remain accurate of analyses.

At the same time, a new quality plan was prepared for raw materials. According to it, all raw materials received by the Plant are analyzed in the laboratory. To this end, new methods for raw materials were developed. Moreover, standards and calibration guidelines for Hexene-1 analyses were prepared.

Maintenance of laboratory equipment is an integral part of quality assurance in laboratory. Well-maintained lab equipment ensures that data is consistent and reliable, which in turn impacts the productivity and integrity of work results. There is an annually updated preventive maintenance program for each piece of laboratory equipment. It maximizes the equipment's operational efficiency.

Factory Acceptance Test completed

On May 01 through 05, Electrical Engineer Orkhan Jafarov and Mechanical Engineer Fırgat Feyzili were on a business trip to the “Elektromotory Frenštát” production facility located in Frenštát pod Radhoštěm, Czech Republic.



The purpose of the trip was to participate in Factory Acceptance Testing of electrical 'Siemens' engines intended for purchase by SOCAR Polymer and to make sure that the engines would work flawlessly when installed at the PP/HDPE plant to serve all sections of the plant.

This FAT included inspection, as well as static/dynamic testing of insulation resistance, winding resistance, withstand voltage, temperature rise, load characteristics, calculation efficiency, locked rotor, short time overload current, and torque capacity, as well as high speed and no-load tests. Involving evaluation of the engines during and after the assembly and checking the integrity of all electrical and mechanical parts, the FAT was successfully conducted and documented at the supplier facility within one day, resulting only in minor punch items to be cleared and re-inspected by the supplier.



National leader Heydar Aliyev commemorated

On May 10, SOCAR Polymer participated in an event organized by the Executive Authorities of Sumgayit in commemoration of the all-national leader Heydar Aliyev on his 99th birthday.



SOCAR Polymer representatives laid flowers to the Great Leader's monument in H.Aliyev Park located in Sumgayit and remembered in gratitude his contribution to the political, economic, social, and cultural life of our people.

The event was attended by representatives of Sumgayit city Executive Authority and other government agencies, parliament members, heads of public companies and organizations, Sumgayit community leaders, and ordinary citizens.

Before and during his presidency, H.Aliyev paid 16 visits to Sumgayit, and each of them was marked by significant developments in the city's life and history. Sumgayit's formation as a city and its becoming a large industrial hub became possible owing to H.Aliyev's efforts, actions, and support. President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev now

continues the policy of consistent support to Sumgayit transforming it further into a manifestation of Azerbaijan's successful industrial development and growth.





IMS certification achieved

On June 21 of 2022, SOCAR Polymer obtained three IMS (Integrated Management System) certificates issued by TÜV Austria Cert GmbH indicating that the company's performance meets respective international standards and there is commitment to progress towards further improvement:

What advantages do these certificates give SOCAR Polymer as a company?

Documents produced by TÜV AUSTRIA are recognized throughout the European Economic Area and beyond in

many countries of the world. This provides a high degree of legal security and acceptance in the economy, transparency for corporate processes, as well as generates confidence in business partners, investors, authorities, and public.



Quality Management System as per EN ISO 9001:2015



TÜV
AUSTRIA

CERTIFICATE

Environmental Management System as per EN ISO 14001:2015

In accordance with TÜV AUSTRIA CERT procedures, it is hereby certified that



“SOCAR Polymer” LLC
Samad Vurgun str. 1183A,
AZ 5000, Sumgait, Azerbaijan

applies a management system in line with the above standard for the following scope

Polypropylene - PP and High-Density Polyethylene - HDPE production

Certificate Registration No. 20104223014643

Valid until 2023-06-20

Certification Body
at TÜV AUSTRIA CERT GMBH

Vienna, 2022-06-21

This certification was conducted in accordance with TÜV AUSTRIA CERT auditing and certification procedures and is subject to regular surveillance audits. The certificate period is 3 years.
TÜV AUSTRIA CERT GMBH Deutschstraße 10 A-1230 Wien www.tuv.at



ZERTIFIKAT | CERTIFICATE | CERTIFICAT | CERTIFICADO | СЕРТИФИКАТ | شهادة | 证书 | 인증서

044318-21-6

Environmental Management System as per EN ISO 14001:2015

What kind of assessment was carried out for certification purposes?

Almost all business processes under all departments were assessed for correspondence to the 177 requirements of clause and sub-clause standards under SOCAR Polymer's Integrated Management System (IMS):

- 69 separate standard requirements for QMS ISO 9001
- 50 separate requirements for EMS ISO 14001
- 58 separate requirements for OH&SMS ISO 45001

What was the outcome of the assessment?

The assessment produced 0 major and 0 minor findings,

and the final report contained only 4 recommendations for improvement.

What is IMS?

An integrated management system (IMS) refers to seamless integration of several different standards into a common system that meets the requirements of each of the standards. This allows the organization to work as a single unit with unified objectives.

IMS benefits include:

- Improvement of performance
- Elimination of redundancies
- Accountability



Occupational Health and Safety Management System as per ISO 45001:2018

- Consistency
- Reduction of bureaucracy
- Cost reduction
- Optimization of processes and resources
- Reduction of maintenance
- Integrated audits
- Facilitation of decision making

IMS implementation helps us make our company a more efficient, safer, and environment-friendly organization.

What were the stages and duration of the certificate obtainment process?

Launched in April of 2021, implemented exclusively by means of SOCAR Polymer’s internal resources without outsourcing any consultancy services, the process of obtaining certificates lasted 14 months and consisted of 5 stages:

- Initiation (1.5 months). Feasibility assessment of the project and evaluation of eligibility to IMS standards were performed by the Internal Audit Department (IAD)

and presented to the General Manager for instruction to proceed.

- Planning (2 months). Based on IMS standard requirements and specified milestones, a Project Management Plan was developed to include the schedule and sequence of activities with estimated durations, the details of quality management, resource management, communication management, risk management, and stakeholder engagement.
- Execution (10 months). A cross-functional team was established consisting of experienced representatives from each department/team. IAD arranged and held training sessions for the cross-functional team members, coordinated resources and activities, and managed stakeholder engagement. Gap Analysis Tools for 3 ISO Certificates were developed to identify present gaps against the standard requirements. All corrective actions with set target dates were cascaded to each cross-functional team member.
- Monitoring and control at all stages. IAD performed activities to track, review and regulate progress and performance. Management Review Meeting sessions were held to disclose the current statuses, bottlenecks, changes in any timelines, to monitor stakeholder engagement, etc.
- Closing (0.5 months). IAD invited the Certification Agency - TÜV Austria to launch the 2-week certification audit which lasted from June 6th to 20th, and the certificates were released on June 21, 2022.

Since when and how prepared was SOCAR Polymer for applying for certification regarding Environmental Management and Occupational Health&Safety Management systems?

Since its establishment in 2017, the HSE team had been consistently building up comprehensive Occupational Health & Safety and Environmental Management Systems based on the national legislation, international standards, our prior experience in different industries, as well as on the expectations expressed by SOCAR Polymer's top management regarding HSE Policy.

A wide range of activities was implemented, including:

- preparation of procedures, plans, and other deliverables
- broad training and awareness sessions, development of competencies
- joint studies in relevant disciplines in order to achieve high standard Plant processes and work areas
- close liaison with the Company management to ensure the visible commitment to HSE
- ensuring of compliance with legal requirements and establishment of Compliance Management activities, e.g., comprehensive environmental monitoring, obtainment of the relevant passports, development of a fire plan, preparation of necessary orders, instructions, etc.
- implementation of administrative controls, e.g., development of Control of Work, Permit to Work, Isolations, Waste Management, Control of Hazardous Substances, etc.
- emergency preparedness and fire safety, which included the joint Fire and Emergency drills with a Local Fire Brigade.

Notably, these Management Systems were implemented without the objective to achieve ISO 14000 and 45000 certifications, as it was not the goal at the time. By the time, the Company set the target of obtaining the certificates, the systems developed by the HSE department required only fine tuning. As a result, SOCAR Polymer's Occupational Health & Safety and Environmental Management Systems successfully passed the external audit and were rewarded with certificates.

What were the product-related assessments focused on?

For certification purposes, the production process was assessed for presence of:

- controls in place to ensure verification / validation / monitoring / inspection & testing of products;
- controls in place to ensure identification and traceability of the products;
- effective identification, handling, packaging, storage, and protection of products through to final delivery;
- controls to ensure the final release of the product meets the set requirements;
- a documented procedure for control over a non-conforming product / process / service, including correction or immediate action;
- a documented process to ensure re-verification of a nonconforming product (i.e., re-assessment of a product to ensure conformance) and retention of records.

How was the certifying agency selected?

The certification body was selected based on competitive bidding process undertaken by SOCAR Polymer's PSCM team. The bidding & contracting process lasted about 5 months. A very detailed analysis of potential certification agencies' capabilities and of their alignment with our requirements was performed by the Internal Audit Team which had also developed the relevant SoW. As a result, TÜV Austria Cert GmbH was selected as acceptable for having met all the predetermined quality criteria, with proven experience under 48 service contracts within 4 years in IMS implementation, accreditation under TurkAk (Nov 2017) and under Akkreditierung-Austria (Sep 2007), employment of certified auditors and lead auditors with appropriate professional background and competence.

Further, out of all auditors proposed by TÜV Austria Cert GmbH, 2 auditors possessing over 35 years of professional experience were selected for the certificate-oriented assessment purposes and invited from abroad.

With over 2000 employees in over 40 countries, TÜV Austria Cert GmbH operates for customers and partners worldwide, from industrial enterprises to commercial and craft businesses, to scientific and research institutions. Since 1872, having a history over 140 years and international experience for more than 30 years, it provides tailor-made services for clients in a wide variety of areas. It is committed to bringing safety, quality, innovation, environmental protection, and business interests to a common denominator.

SOCAR Polymer sponsors a scientific conference



SOCAR Polymer has presented valuable prizes to the selected participants of the III International Scientific Conference of Students and Young Researchers, who reported on the topic of “Sustainable development in chemistry and chemical engineering”.

The presents included backpacks, external hard drives, powerbanks, smart watches, airdots, and flash drives.

The Conference held on April 18-29 consisted of three sections on “Oil-gas geology and engineering”, “Process automation and information security-2022”, and “Sustainable development in chemistry and chemical engineering”. The conference participants were not only from the Baku Higher Oil School, but also from the Baku State University, Azerbaijan State Oil and Industry University, Azerbaijan State Economic University, Azerbaijan Technical University, National Aviation Academy, Baku Engineering University, Azerbaijan State Marine Academy, Sumgayit State University, Ganja State University, Lankaran State University, Mingachevir State University, Middle East Technical University, Institute of Oil-gas Scientific Research and Design, and Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences.





Among other sponsors of the conferences were such companies as SOCAR AQS, BP, Kinetics Technology, ABB Global Marketing, Avandis Group LLC, Emerson Process Management, and Schlumberger.

SOCAR Polymer among top 50 internationally recognized brands



SOCAR Polymer is one of the top 50 companies identified by the 5th “Brand Award International” rating conducted by Caspian Energy Club with the support of Azerbaijan's Export and Investment Promotion Agency (AZPROMO) and Small and Medium Business Development Agency (KOBIA).

The rating was based on the results of anonymous online voting held internationally from January 28 through March 6 of 2022.

On May 6, representatives of 50 internationally recognized Azerbaijan brands took part in the vote contest winners' online award ceremony. SOCAR Polymer was represented by Finance Director, Mushfig Hajiyev. “Participation in the international Brand Award International contest made it possible to brands from over 12 countries to gain a broad audience. Conditions were created in the international contest to increase the recognizability of local brands. Moreover, different companies have introduced innovations into their digital marketing policy, put in place and in some cases resumed the functioning of their websites, updated information on their corporate pages in social networks, and did rebranding, which raised the

interest in their products and services. It is one of the most important achievements of the Brand Award International project. We would like to thank all the participating brands”, the CEO of Caspian Energy Club, Telman Aliyev said at the online event. In his turn, Mushfig Hajiyev thanked the Caspian Energy Club's team and wished them success in their work. The representatives of other winner companies were given the floor, too.

Previously, in May of 2021 SOCAR Polymer was announced the 16th of the most recognizable national brands identified through the national “Brand Award Azerbaijan” contest held by Caspian Energy Club with 200 corporate, service, and product brands participating. Thus, top 50 companies in the rating list became eligible for participation in this year's mentioned “Brand Award International” contest.

SOCAR Polymer on CBC TV channel

On June 18, CBC TV channel broadcasted an episode about the SOCAR Polymer company in a series titled “Projects of the century”.

“SOCAR’s largest project targeted at the development of Azerbaijan’s processing and chemical industries, ‘SOCAR Polymer’ was initiated in 2013. Based on non-recourse financing, that is, without a mother company’s guarantee, the Project was the first of its kind implemented in Azerbaijan. The Project’s main objective was to substitute imports and boost Azerbaijan’s export potential. In its framework, two polymer production plants based on state-of-the-art technology were constructed in 30 ha area within the Sumgayit Chemical Industrial Park 30 km away from Baku,” the presenter said in an introduction to the topic.

Presenter, Yana Nikitina’s questions about SOCAR Polymer were answered by the General Manager, Fuad Ahmadov.

Could you briefly describe the historical background of the company?

The ground-breaking ceremony for the PP and HDPE plants took place in 2015. Commercial production was launched in 2019, followed by sale of products both domestically and abroad. The design production capacities of the PP and HDPE plants are 184 and 120 KTA, respectively. Production is fully automated and based on state-of-the-art technology of European licensors. Production processes are monitored and controlled from the Control Room equipped with control panels from the Yokogawa company.

What are the company’s sale and export achievements?

Within 3 years of operation, considerable results were achieved. We produced over 50 grades of products. So, our product portfolio is rich enough to satisfy most needs of our clients. To that end, a long-term strategy of product portfolio development had been laid out, with all the specific needs of the clients taken into account. The main goal was to raise the Premium products’ share, which was thus doubled in 2021 as compared to 2020. Based on the economic outcomes of 2021, SOCAR Polymer is Azerbaijan’s largest non-oil exporter. Additionally, we have surpassed all the exporters of PP to Russia, even the European ones. That is another achievement made within a relatively short period of production activity. Our company is primarily export-oriented. About 90% of sales target export markets, mainly in Turkey, CIS, and some European countries. On the local market, we cooperate with over 70 companies and extending our customer list.

How safe is it to work at a chemical plant like this?

SOCAR Polymer pays much attention to all aspects of safety – industrial, occupational, and environmental. In this regard it is noteworthy that throughout the plants’ operation period or in the preceding years of construction there had



been no serious injuries despite the known risks associated with this type of hazardous production environment. That as well is an important achievement.

How is human resource development achieved in SOCAR Polymer?

The staff comprises about 750 people, at an average age of 33. Most are English-speaking to be able to maintain close contact with our foreign counterparts, partners, licensors, equipment suppliers, and customers, and to keep abreast of any technological changes, new standards, or requirements. SOCAR Polymer pays particular attention to activities supporting students, young specialists, and future potential labour force. Cooperation has been established even at the level of higher education. Since 2016, we have been conducting an annual summer internship program that applies a multi-stage selection process to choose 35-40 interns from among about 1500 applicants annually. So far, 60 interns have been offered a permanent job following the internship period. Selected on basis of sound and just competition, our interns are often students or graduates who had passed the university admission tests with an average score of 600 out of 700.

The episode also informed about SOCAR Polymer’s contribution to Azerbaijan’s economy, PP and HDPE application areas, product export routes, HR strategy, HSE culture and other aspects of the company’s activity. The video showed different sections of the plants, including the Control Room, reactors, bagging area, and warehouse.

The episode can be watched at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1OXpXVt_Klw

One workday through the eyes of a co-worker



BAHRUZ NOVRUZOV
BAGGING & PACKING OPERATOR (ADJUSTER)

I love my job and strive to fulfil all tasks up to the highest standards, no matter how small or significant they may be.

My position is shift-based. The day shift is from 8 a.m. till 8 p.m., and the night shift is vice-versa. In both shifts, prior to starting the work, I participate in a daily toolbox held by the Bagging & Packing Supervisor to discuss the tasks for the day and safety details. The supervisor highlights the actions to be taken in case of emergency situations in the field.

The next traditional activity at the start of my working day is visual inspection of the conveyor lines and units in the bagging & packing area. Such regular inspections are of irrefutable significance for proper functioning of our production facility. It operates 24/7, and if a PP or HDPE bagging line stops, that may affect our production rates. My job is to eliminate any unplanned interruptions of bagging operations and to restore the conveyor lines' operability as soon as possible, meanwhile observing all safety precautions and rules. So, our team's ultimate goal is to promote high rates of quality production by ensuring uninterrupted operation of all the bagging & packing equipment and machines.

Like in every job, ours has its specific challenges. Our team's professionalism, as well as the experience I had gained in my previous employments help overcome challenging situations. I love my job and strive to fulfil all tasks up to the highest standards, no matter how small or significant they may be. During a shift, our team primarily keeps in close touch with the instrumentation and electrical team members, solving any issues collectively.

At the end of the working day – or night – I conclude my duties for the day by informing the incoming adjuster about all the important highlights of my shift period.

Professional development milestones achieved

SOCAR Polymer supports its employees' aspiration for continuous education, training, and professional development. Individuals setting high standards of expertise motivate other team members to improve and grow further, thus increasing the staff expertise level, the competitive advantages and overall value of a business.

Contract Management course



Movlud Aydemir
Procurement Specialist

Procurement Specialist, Movlud Aydemir has taken a month-long course that covered some general examples and best practices in Contract Management. It is one of several Massive Open Online Courses on procurement, contract management, and project procurement, organized by the World Bank.

— ” —

*I*t is the third training I have taken in Contract Management. For a long time, I had been looking for courses that would inculcate in-depth knowledge and understanding of CM principles and practices. I am also planning to continue studying for CIPS Advanced Diploma and PMP Certificate.

— ” —

CIPS certificate in Procurement & Supply



Sakina Ahmadova
Procurement Specialist

Procurement Specialist, Sakina Ahmadova has received another CIPS certificate for Level 2 Module 3 of the assessment series in Procurement & Supply. The Module was on 'Stakeholder relationship'.

So far, Sakina has passed the following CIPS levels:

November 2021 – L2M1 – *Introducing Procurement and Supply*

March 2022 – L2M2 – *Procurement and Supply Operations*

May 2022 – L2M3 – *Stakeholder relationship*

— ” —

*T*hese certificates will help me become a professional and qualified worker in the field of procurement. In addition to the practical experience we gain through employment, it is also important to keep studying to solidify the theoretical background and to use the acquired skills in building a professional career. It takes approximately 2-3 weeks of self-study to prepare for each exam. I am planning to complete Level 2 modules within this year and to proceed to levels L4, L5, and L6

— ” —

Urfan Atakishiyev Audit Manager

Audit Manager, Urfan Atakishiyev has received a Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) certificate from the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) of USA.

With three years allowed for completion, examination for CIA certification consists of 3 parts:

Part 1

Essentials of Internal Auditing

125 QUESTIONS / 150 MINUTES



Part 2

Practice of Internal Auditing

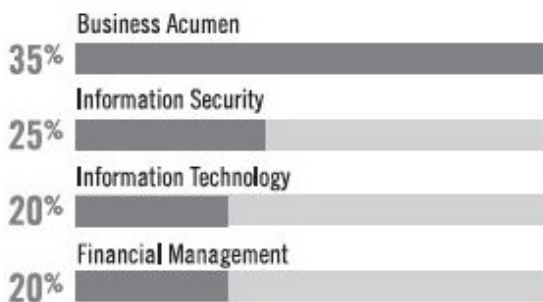
100 QUESTIONS / 120 MINUTES



Part 3

Business Knowledge for Internal Auditing

100 QUESTIONS / 120 MINUTES



CIA certification is the only globally recognized certification for internal auditors, and internal auditors seek it to enhance credibility and respect, to sharpen skills and proficiencies, to increase advancement and earning potential, and to demonstrate understanding and commitment.

CIA certificate in Internal Auditing



”

The CIA certification not only adds to an auditor's toolkit of knowledge, but also adds a component of credibility. I want to be recognized and treated as one of the best in the labor market and this certificate is a must on the way to accomplishing that goal. I applied for the certificate in June of 2019, independently prepared for and passed the exams, and became a Certified Internal Auditor in June of 2022. The pass rate in these exams is 80% and that is quite higher than the average 50% accepted for other certification exams. That being the case, statistically, less than 41% of candidates around the world have successfully passed the CIA certification based on previously released worldwide pass rate.

There are less than 30 entirely CIA designated Internal Auditors in Azerbaijan. Earning your CIA designation means you can confidently perform any audit for organization anywhere around the world – in over 180 countries. In the way of developing professional internal auditors and sharing my practices, I am cooperating with Baker Tilly Academy Azerbaijan as a Training Instructor for CIA certification.

”

Sakina Cavadova

08/06/2022

Candidate Number: 005811503

Your Exam Results

CIPS Certificate in Procurement and Supply - Qualification Number 603/3282/7

L2M3 - Stakeholder Relationships	75% Pass	13/05/2022
L2M2 - Procurement and Supply Operations	92% Pass	18/03/2022
L2M1 - Introducing Procurement and Supply	81% Pass	19/11/2021

CIPS Group
Easton House, Easton on the Hill
Stamford, Lincolnshire, PE9 3NZ
United Kingdom
T +44 (0)1780 756777
F +44 (0)1780 751610
E info@cips.org

Offices in:

- Africa
- Americas
- Asia Pacific
- Australasia
- Europe
- MENA



Amanda O'Brien FCMI, FIoD

Group Professional Development Director



Be It Known That

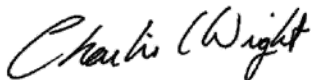
Urfan Atakishiyev

Has successfully met the prescribed requirements for qualification as established by
The Institute of Internal Auditors and is hereby awarded the professional designation of

Certified Internal Auditor

Conferred by the Professional Certifications Board and the Board of Directors of The Institute of Internal Auditors
This month of

June 2022



CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



CHAIRMAN OF THE PROFESSIONAL
CERTIFICATIONS BOARD



CIA-197105-QESRQ

CERTIFICATE NO.

31 December, 2023

EXPIRATION DATE



Career Fair attended



On May 6, SOCAR Polymer was represented at the 10th Career Fair organized by the ADA University's Career Services with view to introduce students and graduates to career opportunities on the domestic labour market, initiate contact between companies and job seekers, and facilitate students' first employment. The Fair was the final event held in the framework of the Career Week that started on April 19.

Our Learning & Development Team Leader Nargiz Salimova and Sr L&D Specialist Natavan Mahmudova provided detailed information about career opportunities and internship programs at SOCAR Polymer.

The purpose of this year's Career Fair was described in its motto as "bridging talents and careers". About 1500 ADA students and graduates, as well as more than 100 leading public and private companies of the country attended the event sponsored by the International Bank of Azerbaijan. Many companies offered jobs and valuable networking, internship, and employment opportunities.



E&M department rewarded the “best of the month”

To boost the team’s potential, to improve the quality of performance, to inspire employees for more effective performance, and to promote teamwork, the leaders of the Engineering & Maintenance department suggested that incentivising gifts be awarded to monthly selected members of the team.

To this end, employees who best perform the tasks set by the Mechanical, Electrical, Instrumentation, Planning, and Engineering Team Leads and Supervisors during a given month, are entered into the nominees list then submitted to the manager of the E&M department. The criteria for selection include, among others, timely and resource-saving implementation of the tasks, efficient teamwork, and quality of results.

Considering the upsurge in the E&M team’s workload during the TAR period, the number of award winners in April and May was increased as follows:

APRIL



APRIL



APRIL





At the short award ceremony, E&M Manager Ulvi Mehraliyev called out the names of the awardees and presented to them gift packages containing a rucksack, a thermos, a cap, and a jacket. In their turn, the awardees emphasized their content with the level of appreciation of efforts within the team and that their personal achievements wouldn't have been possible without their teammates' contribution.

Creating opportunities to quench students' interest

SOCAR Polymer has long become an object and source of growing interest among students majoring in technical disciplines at different higher education facilities.



The guests are met by representatives of the PR department at the gatehouse building where guests receive visitor badges to pass through turnstiles.

Further, for permission to enter the production area, the visitors pass a standard HSE induction session to become informed about the health and safety risks at a production facility, as well as about fire safety rules, muster points' locations, emergency conduct rules, etc.

Then, the guests are taken on a bus tour round the production area where they are given information about the main sections and units of the PP and HDPE plants, including

the polymerization reactors, control room, extrusion and bagging areas, ready product warehouses, laboratory, etc. They are accompanied by representatives of the Operations department, Process Engineers Esmira Jafarova and Humay Hamidli or Ali Aladdinov and Togrul Gurbanli who answer all their questions about the company, the polymer production process from feedstock to final product, application areas of polymer pellets, etc.

In conclusion of their visit, guests take a group photo in memory of the event.

In the second quarter of 2022, our plants were visited by several groups of students and faculty members.



On April 13, SOCAR Polymer was visited by the oil-gas and chemical engineering students of the Azerbaijan State Oil Industry University, Baku State University, and Baku Higher Oil School. The visit was arranged by the Azerbaijan Engineers Union. In conclusion of the visit, the students received presents in memory of the event.



On June 10, the plants were visited by 24 Chemical Engineering students of the Baku Higher Oil School. The number of students wishing to visit the plants in the Sumgayit Chemical Industrial Park was large, so two groups were formed and the visits were planned for different dates.



On June 17, the plants were visited by another group of 23 Chemical Engineering students of Baku Higher Oil School.

In conclusion of the visit, the students took a collective photo in memory of the event.



Participant selection for Summer Internship Programme continues

Students' participation in social projects and internship programs during their university years is important for their professional development and career success, as it gives an opportunity to apply in practice the knowledge and skills learned in academic institutions.



The 2022 Summer Internship Program was launched on April 5, with the application deadline on May 10. This year, internships in 18 disciplines were offered. Eligible to apply were citizens of the Azerbaijan Republic who were last year students of Bachelor Degree Programs, or students of Master Degree Programs.

1403 applications were received from students of such academic facilities as the Khazar University, Baku Higher Oil School, Azerbaijan State University of Economics, Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy, Azerbaijan State Oil & Industry University, Azerbaijan Engineering University, Baku State University, Azerbaijan-French University, Baku branch of Moscow State University named after M.V.Lomonosov, Azerbaijan Technical University, Azerbaijan University of Languages, National Aviation Academy, the Academy of Public Administration Under the President of the Azerbaijan Republic, Azerbaijan State Agrarian University, as well as University of Rome Tor Vergata, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, University of Bologna, Middle East Technical University, Ondokuz Mayıs University, University of Debrecen, Vilnius University, Norwegian University of Science & Technology, Polytechnic University of Turin, Leipzig University, etc.

Students demonstrated special interest for process engineering, quality laboratory engineering, mechanical engineering, and human resource related disciplines.

The applications were screened for eligibility by academic year, by relevance of the selected discipline to the

applicant's major, and by acceptability of the submitted essay. 489 applications successfully passed the initial assessment stage. 119 candidates who were exempted from or successfully passed the English language exam got invited to the logical-reasoning exam. Candidates who successfully pass this stage will be invited to face-to-face interviews starting July 1.



Contributing to the World Environment Day

To mark the World Environment Day held on 5 June annually since 1973, HSE department members enhanced this year's agenda with a tree tagging activity to ensure effective management of tree stock and relevant data by assigning a unique number to each tree within the SOCAR Polymer site perimeter. Numbering trees will help monitor how well each tree is doing from year to year.



It is self-evident that leafage helps filter air pollution. Trees clean the air by absorbing carbon dioxide and emitting oxygen. They also filter atmospheric pollutants like sulphur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide through their leaves. They not only shade cars and parking lots, but also reduce ozone formed in the atmosphere through a complex set of chemical reactions involving hydrocarbons from vehicles, oxides of nitrogen, and sunlight.

Trees are particularly effective at removing particulate matter (PM), i.e. tiny particles of organic chemicals, acids, metals and dust, emitted from fossil-fuel-burning vehicles and factories, as well as construction sites. Fine particulate matter can easily penetrate into human respiratory system, causing lung and cardiovascular diseases or exacerbating respiratory illness. By one estimate, 8.9 million deaths a year globally could be attributable to exposure to outdoor fine particulate matter.



SOCAR Polymer remains true to its commitment to minimize industrial impacts on the environment. The company manages its environmental impacts through monitoring air, water, and soil pollution.

All solid waste generated at site is transported from the site and utilized by a third-party company. Wastewater accumulated in underground facilities is delivered via underground pipelines to the Azerikimya wastewater treatment facility, while sewage water from the operational zone is delivered to respective SCIP facilities.

As part of the Environmental Monitoring Scope, an ISO17025-compliant laboratory was invited to SOCAR Polymer to conduct environmental monitoring including:

- passive air monitoring at the several points within the SP boundaries

- waste water analyses from different wastewater sources
- groundwater analyses from boreholes
- soil analysis from several points

Passive air monitoring and wastewater analysis are conducted on a monthly basis, while ground water and soil quality measurements are performed twice a year.

SOCAR Polymer brought holiday joy to 100 families

Remaining loyal to the tradition developed over the past 6 years, SOCAR Polymer has once again participated in the charity event organized by the Sumgayit branch of the Red Crescent Society (RCS) to bring joy to the disabled, the elderly, and low-income families on the occasion of the sacred Ramadan holiday.



On May 5, the elderly and their families gathered in front of the Sumgayit RCS building. In her opening speech, the Chairwoman of the Sumgayit city branch of RCS, Matanat Maharramova welcomed the citizens and wished everyone a joyous Ramadan holiday. On behalf of all those present, she expressed gratitude to all the sponsors and supporters of the event and underlined SOCAR Polymer company's contribution and continuous support to those in need. Among the donors of the charity event were announced such companies as Pasha Bank, Pasha Life, while two more donors wished to remain incognito. The number of distributed holiday gift packages totalled 520.

The SOCAR Polymer company had arranged about 100 food baskets to help families celebrate Ramadan with a traditional holiday meal. The baskets included a chicken, long rice, butter, vegetable oil, ground and lump sugar, dates, buckwheat, flour, and packaged tea.

Representing our company at the event, the PR department employee Orkhan Khalilzadeh helped distribute the gift bags and received warm thanks and kind wishes of the elderly and

families in appreciation of SOCAR Polymer's support on every holiday occasion. The gift baskets for people who had not been physically able to attend the event were then delivered to the addressees by RCS volunteers.

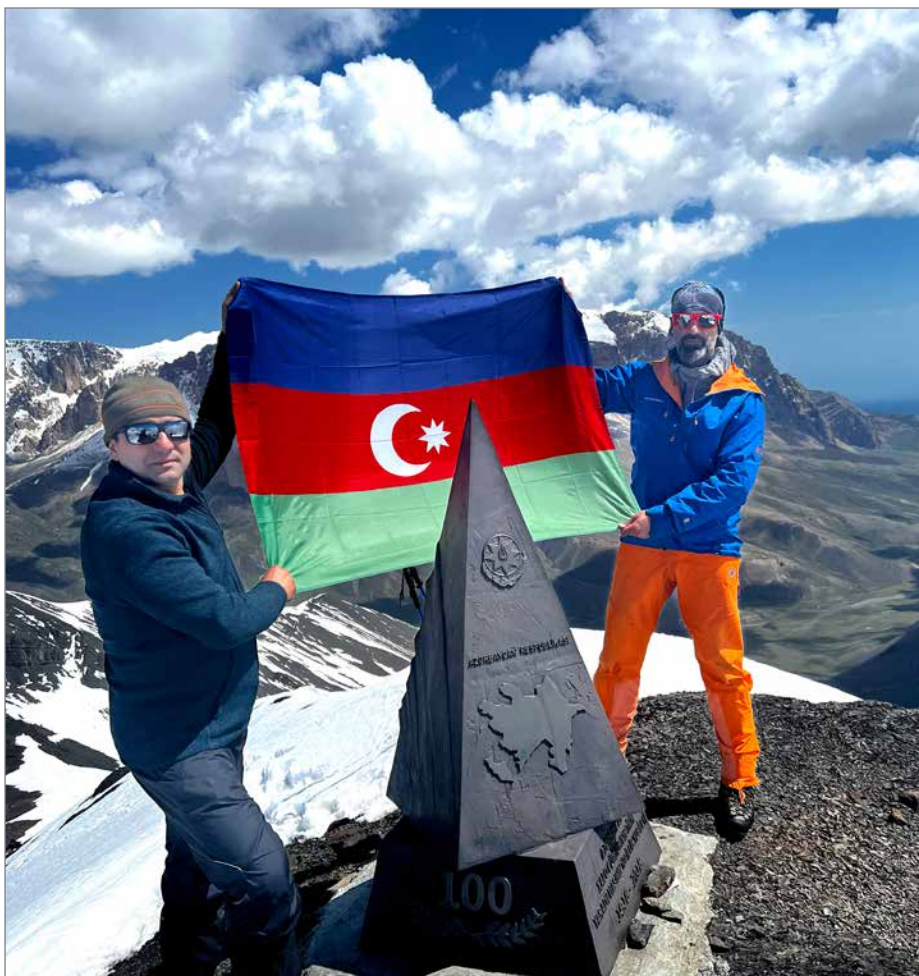




Republic peak conquered by SOCAR Polymer employees

To celebrate the 28th of May holiday, the 104th anniversary of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, 20 employees of SOCAR Polymer took part in the ascent to the Republic peak in the Great Caucasus mountain range. The participants were from different departments, of different professions and age groups, with sufficient to no prior experience in mountain climbing, which made the tour still more exciting and challenging.





The ascent to the 3740 meters high Republic peak took two days. On the first day, May 29, our colleagues spent 5 hours to get from Baku to the Khinalig village of the Guba region, where they boarded GAZ-66 vehicles – the only transport means there capable of crossing the highland landscapes abounding with turbulent rivers carrying their waters in rocky riverbeds amidst contrasting mountainous reliefs with alternating gorges, hills, and valleys. Thus, the 2-hour bouncy ride took the group 2700 meters above sea level to Shahyaylag (literally translated as “Shah’s pasture”) located at the feet of the target mountain. Having erected a dozen of tents, the group then set up a bonfire to warm up food for the evening meal, to boil water for samovar tea, and to spend a few hours conversing, dancing to Caucasian music, enjoying fresh mountain air, meanwhile growing adjusted to the lower atmospheric pressure so as to physically prepare and gather strength for the morning ascent. It was recommended to go to sleep by 9 p.m. to be able to get up at 2:30 a.m.



After quick breakfast in dusk pierced by dozens of headtorch beams, the chief tour guide gave final instructions to the group regarding the ascent, and everyone followed him in a line stretching from the camp towards the targeted mountain at 4 a.m.

The tour was organized and closely guided by the Explore Mountains company whose services were specifically selected for the event with due regard to the issues of safety during the ascent. Seven tour-guide assistants accompanied our colleagues to ensure safety and give any advice needed on the way

The group reached the peak by noon and immortalized

the memory of the conquest by taking photos with proudly held flags of the Azerbaijan Republic and SOCAR Polymer company.

After some time spent on the peak, the participants spent about 5 hours descending to the Shahyaylag camp, took down the tents and set out for Baku.

We are proud of all our colleagues who bravely faced the challenges thrown at them by the wild nature of cold stern giants to once again wave our tricolour on the top of the Republic peak in celebration of our republic's Independence Day! Well done!





www.socarpolymer.az

OPENING NEW FRONTIERS
IN THE PETROCHEMICAL
INDUSTRY OF AZERBAIJAN

 **SOCAR**
POLYMER