

NEWS RELEASE

SA COMPANY PIPES ITS WAY TO THE UKRAINE

RIB LOC UNVEILS BREAKTHROUGH TECHNOLOGY TO REVOLUTIONISE PIPELINE INDUSTRY

South Australia's pioneering pipe manufacturer Rib Loc Ltd has developed a revolutionary new technology that could cut pipeline construction costs by up to 50 percent and break new ground by allowing pipes to be assembled literally in their trenches.

The breakthrough technology means Rib Loc can ship new steel-reinforced plastic pipelines in a 'flat ribbon' form – a much cheaper and simpler means of transportation.

The Adelaide-based company has just won a major contract in the Ukraine which has opened up major opportunities for exports throughout the world, particularly in the nations of the former Soviet Union where major infrastructure works are underway.

Shipments leave for the Ukraine this Wednesday and a team of Rib Loc people will travel to the Ukraine in September to deliver the new piping product and to help authorities in the regional city of Lviv to assemble the pipeline.

The initial order is to provide 1.5 kilometres of pipe for a sewer and stormwater system, but there is potential for followup in this market worth many millions of dollars..

"We think there is a huge market for making pipes of this design at the job site. Material costs, installation speed and freight represent significant costs and this technology has the potential to cut the total costs of piping work by half," said Rib Loc Chief Executive – Pipe Division, Ian Bateman.

"In principal we can now actually make the pipe at the bottom of the trench it will be laid in – that's a world first and it has the potential to revolutionise the pipe world."

The Rib Loc technology involves producing a specially designed and patented pipe material – known as the 'profile' – which it can roll onto giant spools. Rib Loc's new mobile pipe-making equipment, which can be located in the bottom of the trench, then turns the profile into pipe.

The technology will mean lower costs, custom-made lengths of pipes, rapid installation and even the potential to have 'jointless' pipes, where a single pipe is made to span two manholes.

"We believe this is the lowest-cost way of producing pipelines in the world and it's capable of installing vast quantities of pipe per day," Mr Bateman said.

"The Ukraine contract proves the point, where it was more cost-effective for the Lviv authorities to source this product from Australia than to purchase piping locally," he said.

Rib Loc has also had major export success with its pipe rehabilitation business.

Media please note: Rib Loc's Ukraine project team leader and engineer Gulcay Uysal, who will be travelling to the Ukraine to supervise the pipeline assembly, will be available on Tuesday August 12th at Rib Loc, 587 Grand Junction Road, Gepps Cross, to demonstrate the technology.

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