

PRESS RELEASE JANUARY 2011

Minimax Fire Protection to be installed in World's Largest Pellet Plant:

A pellet plant of an unprecedented scale has recently been constructed in the seaport town of Vyborg, Russia. With a production capacity of approximately 900,000 tons per year, (roughly 125 tons per hour) the wood pellet plant will be the largest in the world; nearly twice as large as any wood pellet plant in existence.

The new pellet plant will be operated by the Russian cellulose and paper manufacturer, JSC Vyborgskaya Cellulose. Andritz Feed & Biofuel, part of Andritz Group, a leading international technology provider, is supplying the production with wood debarking lines, a chip handling system, belt dryers, hammer mills, pellet mills and selected Minimax systems to provide fire protection for these systems.

Thorsten Westphal, head of the Wood, Paper and Special Hazards Competence Center at Minimax Germany, was in charge of the order: "A wood pellet plant generally includes a lot of high risk areas. This means that the fire risk is extremely high here. For the huge Russian plant, we have supplied systems including the engineering for these high-risk areas. Commissioning, training, and handing over will all be performed by our specialists."

On the pellet press lines and in areas where fine grinding is done, an emerging fire can be detected immediately and automatically, and extinguished before it spreads at lightning speed. Minimax will supply a system for the detection of sparks and hot particles with an extinguishing function for these areas. Moreover, Minimax fire detection technology and Minifog fine water spray technology will also provide fire protection for the critical areas of the four gigantic double-story belt dryers in a future stage of the project.