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SUEK has commissioned a flotation unit at the Kirov washing plant in the Kemerovo region. The total investment reached \$13.3m.

The new flotation technology introduced at SUEK for the first time maximises washing efficiency of coal fines (0-0.35 mm), producing a high-quality concentrate (calorific value over 6,600 kcal) with an ash content of 8-9% from a product containing 30-40% ash.

With this unit, the output of commercial products will increase by 2.8%, which will boost the annual concentrate production at the washing plant by 150,000 tonnes. At the same time, the company will generate less waste, spending less on waste release (cake), transportation and storage. This also solves environmental problems related to road transport within the city (dust, noise and pollutant emissions).

"The global market environment requires ongoing improvement in the quality of coal for achieving competitive advantages," said Anatoly Meshkov, General Director of JSC SUEK-Kuzbass. "The company has adopted and runs a relevant long-term programme. Technical re-equipment and modernisation enhance the production capacities of washing plants. Today, SUEK-Kuzbass is able to process 16 Mt of coal a year. Another way to achieve the quality indicators required by the market is to increase the processing depth of raw coal or use fine sludge (down to 0)."

"Having commissioned the flotation unit at the Kirov washing plant, our company will effectively address this issue. In addition, the environmental situation in neighbouring areas will improve," he added.

Sibniicoal, SUEK's Research Institute of Coal Beneficiation, completed all the design work for the flotation unit. The project was comprised of a flotation unit building, flotation reagent storage, a pumping station, a TP-103 transformer substation and a protective structure. Also, the radial thickener building underwent renovation.

SUEK spent about \$6m on new equipment for this new unit. Flotation machines, XJM-S28, and disc vacuum filters, Bokela Boozer, are at the core of the process cycle.

To be noticed, the unit can process sludge coming from two modules of the Kirov washing plant as well as from the old sludge sumps.