

## Drilling with air-power

Like most construction & drilling contractors around the world, those who operate in Middle East countries also strive for the fastest production at the lowest cost.

The leading contractors of the Sultanate of Oman -Al Turki Enterprises LLC, PowerTech Engineering and Rayoman – are a case in point, and they have turned to Elgi for air compressors to meet the tough demands of drilling industry. In the sub-tropical climate with its extreme temperatures at the worksites can be extremely demanding for machines.

Petroleum Development Oman (PDO), owned by the Government of Oman, through these contractors planned to build electric poles to carry overhead transmission lines of 132 KV. The installation of the electric poles required bore diameter upto 39- inch (1000 mm) to be drilled to a minimum depth of 4 meter.

Over the years, it has been a practice to drill large diameter holes by drilling a series of small holes and loading them with explosives. Once exploded, the loose material would be removed by pick and shovel. This method proved to be time consuming and dangerous. DTH hammer drilling system replaced this conventional method allowing faster penetration rates.



PDO contractors used pole drilling rigs coupled with DTH cluster hammers that are capable of drilling large-diameter pole holes in a single shot. The DTH hammer bits used in this task requires a substantial amount of compressed air for their efficient operation. Elgi, being a reliable supplier of compressors for drill rig applications worldwide, was chosen to supply two-stage compressors for this project. Elgi supplied high-pressure compressors, with a free-air delivery of 1100 cfm at 300 psi pressure. The compressors ensured high performance when drilling big and deep pole holes, providing savings in both time and money. Elgi compressors also proved to be fuel-efficient as they are powered by Cummins engine with international warranty.

Besides the construction & mining sector, Elgi has evolved as a strong player in providing compressed air solutions for ship building and sand-blasting segments in the GCC countries. Elgi's full-fledged office cum warehouse in Middle East would further cater to the needs of its growing customer base in these countries.

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