

Protecting the World's Longest Sea-Bridge Against Fire

Kirloskar Brothers Limited's (KBL's) association with some of the most iconic and prestigious global structures goes a long way. The company, through its subsidiary, SPP Pumps, the largest manufacturer of pumps in the UK, is among the most preferred providers of comprehensive firefighting systems in the Building & Construction industry. KBL has provided its firefighting pump sets for some of the most iconic buildings globally. Last year, the company added yet another name to the long list of its association with some of the most distinguished global milestone structures – The Hong Kong – Zhu Hai – Macau Bridge, the world's longest sea-bridge.

The mammoth Hong Kong – Zhu Hai – Macau Bridge, was officially opened in October 2018. The length of the world's longest sea-bridge is 55 kms, wherein around 30 km of the bridge lies above water. The iconic bridge links three major cities, Hong Kong, Zhuhai and Macau, which are geographically close but separated by water. The construction of the bridge has precisely cut down the on-road travelling time between Zhuhai and Hong Kong from about four hours to a mere 30 minutes.

Though it is officially called a 'bridge', it is in fact a series of bridges, a number of artificial islands and underground tunnels, including the Liantang tunnel, touted to be Hong Kong's longest road tunnel.

The quality and safety standards maintained for such a legendary structure are bound to be very high, with the Chinese administration opting for the best and most globally reputed experts from all spheres for transforming this dream project into reality.

After due evaluation and extrospection, the administration shortlisted KBL's subsidiary, SPP Pumps, as the primary supplier of critical fire-fighting pump sets and systems for ensuring fire safety across the bridge. SPP Pumps was favoured in view of its reputation as a global market leader in world-class pumping solutions and its close association and extensive experience on working with many similar landmark structures in the past.

Accordingly, as per the project requirement, SPP Pumps supplied more than 60 firefighting pump sets for the historic project. These included KBL's Unistream end-suction sprinkler pumps (KP type), ranging from 11kW to 75kW, provided depending on

the exact requirement and client specifications. Today, the installed KBL pumps are protecting the entire stretch of the 55 km long bridge, including the Liantang tunnel.

All the firefighting pumps provided by KBL for the Hong Kong – Zhu Hai – Macau Bridge and the Liantang tunnel have been duly approved by the Loss Prevention Certification Board (LPCB), the leading international certification body in the fields of security and fire protection. LPCB approval, which is usually based on testings undertaken by the LPCB's world-renowned testing laboratories, is recognised by governments and regulatory authorities across the world, especially in the Asia-Pacific, Middle East and Europe.

This close association is yet another feather in the cap for us.