

## **BRAITHWAITE WATER TANKS FLOW INTO EUROPE**

Braithwaite Engineers have been awarded a multi million pound project to design and supply hundreds of pressed steel sectional water storage tanks to the inhabitants of a country where the issue of environmental protection has only a relatively recent history. This major social development project will provide drinking water to several thousand rural villages. The populations drinking water supply is in a particularly vulnerable situation and Braithwaite are assisting the Romanian population in the field of water quality protection and distribution. This contract will transform the lives of many people in rural Romania and boost the prestige of high quality British Steel.

In the majority of the sites, villages are located in plain or hill zones, and it was necessary to drill wells from a ground water source, at a depth between 50 and 200metres, and with a flow of 5l/s. The steel water storage tanks ranging from capacities between 150m<sup>3</sup> and 750m<sup>3</sup> were erected on sites according to the topography and hydraulic considerations. The steel tanks were rigorously analysed and tested by the Romanian engineers, and Braithwaite Engineers were the first British Company to obtain a Romanian National Technical Agreement for the supply of potable water storage tanks. Testing was carried out on the tanks for compliance with Romanian Standards covering Seismic, wind and snow loading conditions. Of particular concern to the Ministry of Public Works, was the protection to the tanks and foundations from the environmental conditions. Typically the temperature ranges from 40°C in summer to -35°C in winter. The tanks incorporated a unique design for thermal insulation, and this allows maintenance to be carried out with minimal disruption.

The client evaluated the main advantages of using sectional steel tanks as opposed to traditional concrete structures and no disadvantages were found. It was concluded that rectangular pressed steel sectional tanks are speedily erected and has superior quality.

Romanian demand for environmental protection equipment and services is expected to witness a significant increase in the next few years. As part of it's overall business strategy, Braithwaite are entering into co-operation agreements with other qualified Romanian organisations in this market sector, and intends to continue supplying technology to other water supply schemes in Eastern Europe thus cementing it's current position as a market leader world-wide.

**For more information contact:**

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