Can you give us an update on the STAR refinery project and what developments can be expected for the rest of 2016?

The STAR refinery is currently over 50% complete most of the site preparation work complete, all done by local Turkish civil contractors. The first jetty is progressing very well and the second jetty has started piling works. 95% of procurement has been done, a considerable amount of long lead items have arrived at the port, been transported and erected. The port is working well, with the expectation for most of the remaining equipment to have arrived within the next 3 months. A huge amount of structural steel is onsite including the scaffolding. A large percentage of piping is in the mechanical shops being managed by our three mechanical contractors.

How is the project coping in the current economic climate? Have plans had to be altered in order to continue on schedule?

The project itself has not been affected at all by the current economic climate; in fact prices of equipment are very competitive so future plans are expected to remain unchanged.

What opportunities will there be for local operational companies over the coming 12 months?

STAR is currently developing its strategy for operations and maintenance so the timing of the conference in Izmir is perfect. Companies who are interested in this work should approach Savas Soydaner our Project Director - there could be some good opportunities for local and international organizations.

When can completion be expected and how will this impact the region?

The refinery is still on track to be completed and commissioned in 2018 subject to a trouble free operational period and given the go ahead by the lenders technical team. This will be a very testing period for the team but we have recruited some excellent experienced resources to handle the work.

At this year’s CEE and Turkey Refining and Petrochemical conference in Izmir, delegates will be able to visit the STAR refinery site once more. What changes can they expect to see since the visit in 2014?

The visitors will see huge difference in the refinery, including over 40,000 tons of structural steel erected, piping installed, two jetties substantially complete and by September most of the tanks will be erected. There will be close to 10,000 workers on site and a tremendous amount of mechanical, electrical and instrumentation underway. A very high focus will be on HSE; the more people carrying out work means more risk and possible accidents.

For more information on the CEE & Turkey Refining and Petrochemicals Summit visit: http://cee.wraconferences.com/