



Our profound loss

*On the 22nd of August 2017,
We mourn the passing of our esteemed and much-loved Feyyaz Berker,
One of the founding partners of the Tekfen Group of Companies.*

*A man who throughout his life believed in the powers of progress and development,
A man who won the praise and the admiration of many with his dynamic personality,
A man who always took the side of peace and understanding,
A man who paved the way for so many new generations with his support for education.*

*He who dedicated his life
Along with his friends and comrades
Necati Akçağlılar and Ali Nihat Gökyiğit
to serve his country.*

*Today, we are overcome with grief.
He shall always be remembered with affection and reverence.*



Onwards in Qatar

Tekfen Construction recently signed yet another civic project in Qatar. The Eastern Industrial Road with a project value of USD200 mio, will be completed in 27 months.

A further project has been added to Tekfen Construction's operations in Qatar. Winning the tender offered by ASHGHAL (the Qatar Public Works Authority) for the Eastern Industrial Road with a 200 million USD bid, the project will be completed by Tekfen Construction within 27 months.

This latest project, a 2.5 kilometre road with two separate viaducts, marks Tekfen Construction's fourth ongoing project in Qatar. With the value of the current projects now at 2.4 billion USD, the total value of all Tekfen projects in Qatar to date has reached the 4.9 billion USD mark.

Tekfen Construction awarded by IPLOCA

Tekfen Construction was awarded by IPLOCA, of which it is a founding member, in the "Health and Safety" and "Corporate Social Responsibility" categories at IPLOCA's 51st annual gathering in Mexico City.

One of the world's foremost trade organizations, with 250 members from 40 countries, IPLOCA (the International Pipe Line and Offshore Contractors Association) presented awards to Tekfen Construction in the fields of Health & Safety and the Corporate Social Responsibility at its 51st annual gathering held in Mexico City between 25-29 September. Both awards were received in person by Osman Birgili, President of the Tekfen Group of Companies and former chairman of IPLOCA, President of Tekfen Construction Levent Kafkash and Vice President of Business Development Fatih Can.

Every year, based on specified criteria, IPLOCA assesses members' submitted proj-

ects and presents awards in the fields of "Health & Safety", "Environment" and "Corporate Social Responsibility", with one winner and two runners-up selected for each category.

This year, there were 13 candidates for the award in the Health & Safety category, sponsored by Chevron. Tekfen took second place for its project "Working on Steep Slopes", an initiative that aims to implement safeguards that will ensure greater security for work being carried out on steep areas on the TANAP (Trans-Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline) route. As a result of these measures and the accompanying educational initiatives, there has

been a significant reduction in the number of accidents caused by sliding of heavy construction equipment, especially during the winter months. This project was evaluated by the IPLOCA Occupational Health and Safety Committee and deemed worthy of recognition.

In the "Corporate Social Responsibility" category, sponsored by Total and with 8 candidate entries, Tekfen won one of the runner-up awards for its "Contribution to Seasonal Workers' Families and Children" initiative, which aims to meet the hygiene and educational needs of seasonal workers' families working in the areas around the TANAP pipeline.



Tekfen Engineering to provide consultancy services for the world's longest suspension bridge



Tekfen Engineering has been awarded with the tender offered by the General Directorate for Highways for the 1915 Çanakkale Bridge and related highway. The joint Tekfen Engineering-Parsons venture will provide consultancy and monitoring services to the 100 km highway and the world's longest suspension bridge at a cost of 164.3 million Turkish lira.

Once completed, the 1915* Çanakkale Bridge will be the world's longest suspension bridge. The distance of 2,023 metres between the two piers of the bridge will symbolise the 100 years since the 1923 founding of the Republic of Turkey. The bridge, whose total span will be 3,860 metres, will be the first of its kind over the Çanakkale Straits and the 5th suspension bridge in the Marmara Region. As well as the construction of the bridge, the Tekfen-Parsons partnership shall also undertake the implementation and supervision of a 100 kilometre 6-lane highway project that will include 31 viaducts, 5 tunnels, 30 interchange junctions and 143 overpass structures.

As per signed agreement in 2010 with the General Directorate of Highways, Tekfen Engineering has also commenced preliminary work on the Kınalı-Çanakkale and Çanakkale-Savaştepe Highways. A 166-man team shall work on the Malkara-Çanakkale Highway, the largest consultancy project Tekfen Engineering has undertaken to date.

* **Editor's note:** The "1915" within the name of the bridge marks the date of the historical battle fought in Çanakkale during the War of Independence led by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, founder of the Turkish Republic.

CONSULTANCY SERVICES PROVIDED BY TEKFN ENGINEERING FOR HIGHWAY AND MOTORWAY PROJECTS TO DATE

Tarsus-Adana-Gaziantep (TAG) Highway	1988-2002	230 km
Susurluk-Balıkesir Highway	1993-2001	62 km
Gulf of Izmit Crossing	1996	47 km
Aydın-Kuyucak Highway	1997-2007	60 km
Ünye-Piraziz Highway, Bolaman-Perşembe Section Viaduct and Bridges	1998-2000	
Ünye Orbital	1999-2005	10 km
Çiftehan-Pozantı Highway Viaduct and Bridges	2000-2008	
Çeltikçi-Burdur-Keçiborlu Freeway	2000-2007	67 km
Çanakkale-Savaştepe Highway	2010-2016	331 km
Kınalı-Çanakkale Highway	2010-2015	180 km
Dumlupınar-Manisa Highway	2010-2017	243 km
Ankara-Dumlupınar Highway	2010-2017	257 km
İstanbul Strait Tunnel Crossing	2010-2011	11 km
Merzifon-Koyulhisar Highway	2013-present	235 km
İzmir-Aydın Highway, İzmir-Çeşme Highway and İzmir Orbital	2013-2016	26 km
Aşkabat-Turkmenbashi Highway (Turkmenistan)	2014-present	344 km
Northern Expressway, Qatar	2014-2017	50 km
Bursa-Karacabey-Zeytinbaşı-Mudanya Freeway	2015-2017	29 km
Viaducts over the Akyazı-Dokurcun Freeway	2016-2017	
Al Khor Highway, Qatar	2016-present	34 km





BACK TO SCHOOL



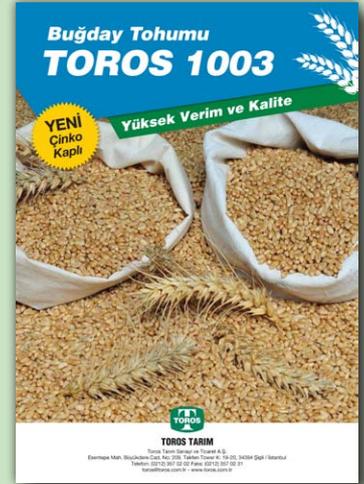
Toros Agri, Tekfen's Agri-Industry Group subsidiary, has launched Toros Academy, with the aim of merging all its educational and development functions under one roof. Founded with the aim of providing support for the administrative, professional and personal development of all company employees, the Toros Academy also aims to create a culture of continuous development within the group. In this context, the Academy launched its "Leadership School" last August, which will provide support to upper management via "Coaching for Management Leaders" and "Foundational Leadership" programmes, developed in collaboration with Bilgi University for junior and middle-management.

Full support for the development of qualified human resources at Toros Agri

Tekfen Engineering's Academy is on its way too

With the aim of developing a qualified labour force and to institutionalise the concept of knowledge accumulation, yet another Academy is in the process of being established under the auspices of Tekfen Engineering. One of the key elements in the firm's new five-year strategic plan, the Academy will gather all the instructional and educational programmes that have been introduced so far under one corporate roof. Furthermore, the firm's accumulated engineering knowledge and experience will be archived and be available for immediate access. Education at the Academy will be provided by consultants, managers, senior employees and academics, alongside experienced members of Tekfen staff. The Tekfen Engineering Academy will commence operations by the end of the year.

IN BRIEF...



Toros 1003 patented strain of wheat now on sale

Sales of the Toros 1003 strain of wheat, work on which began in 2010 as part of Toros Agri's research programme into improving common bread wheat, have now begun. Thanks to the enhanced qualities and quicker maturation time of this strain and a structure that makes it both suitable for frequent planting and more durable in arid conditions, the strain is expected to become one of the most popular summer breeds.



Toros Agri meets farmers from 12 provinces

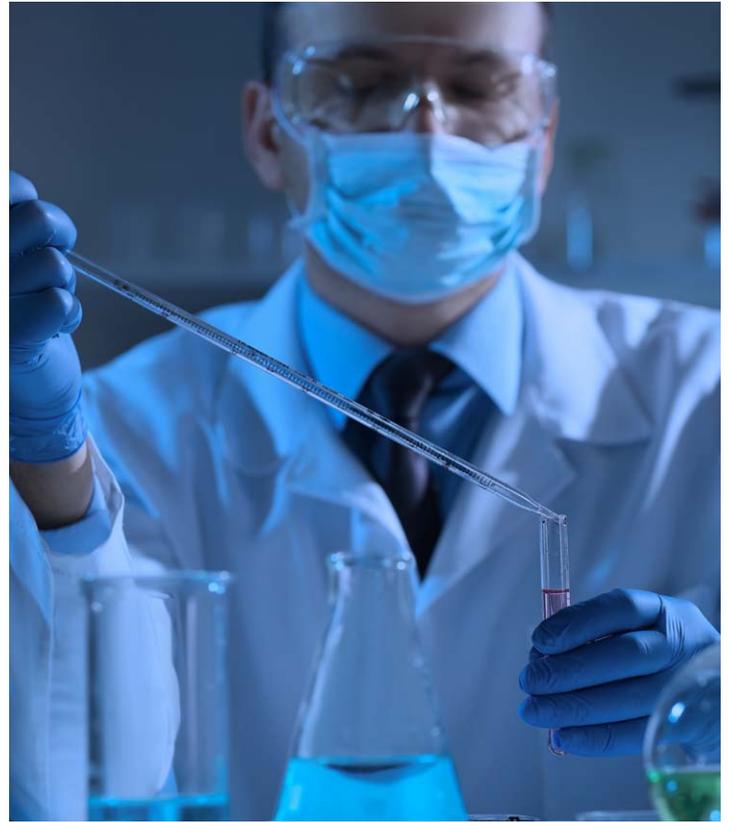
Toros Agri recently completed a roadshow of Turkey, between the 7th of September and the 7th of October, with its well know slogan "Wherever there is agriculture in Anatolia, Toros Agri is there". During the roadshow, Toros Agri showcased its new organomineral fertiliser and introduced its Ultra Azot fertiliser, consisting of 33% nitrogen (N) and 24% sulphur (SO₃), production of which has recently begun.

Toros Agri to establish an R&D Centre in Mersin

Toros Agri's application to the Ministry for Science, Industry and Technology to establish a R&D Centre in the field of plant nutrition has been accepted. As the first of its kind in its field in Turkey, the centre will carry out scientific research on the needs and demands of the fertiliser sector.

With the aim of adding new fertiliser types to the product portfolio, a key element for the sustainability of agriculture, and to bring technological innovations to Turkish agriculture, Toros Agri will set up an R&D Centre at its Mersin Production Plant. The plant will be the first in the field of plant nutrition to have an R&D Centre.

With the application ratified by the Ministry, the R&D Centre will work on new product development, the refinement and improvement of existing products and on process development. Alongside developing various forms of fertiliser and work on how to promote the domestic production of goods that have hitherto not been produced locally, the R&D Centre will also focus on improving the physical and chemical properties of existing products and raising their levels of resistance and durability. The centre will also carry out research on production processes, optimisation, energy conservation and the environmental effects of production.



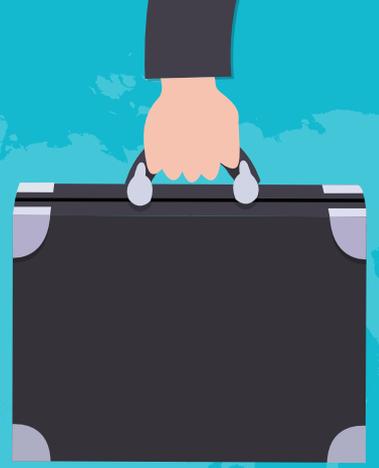
An environmentally friendly investment in the Mersin Production Plant

The Mersin Production Plant, one of Toros Agri's three production facilities, has furthered its commitment to the environment by introducing, on a purely voluntary basis, a new stack gas purification system.

In its production processes and services, Toros Agri has long been a pioneer in a number of fields in the sector and with the introduction of the CAN Unit Prill Tower Flue Gas Purification System, the firm is once again the force behind a model investment. The first of its kind in the Turkish fertiliser sector, this 35 million TL facility is also one of the largest ever environmental investments by an industrial enterprise in Turkey.

In terms of the volume and stack gas emissions and its treatment capacity, the newly introduced system is one of only a few of its kind in the world and also means that the emission figures of the Mersin Production Plant are now well within the legal limit stipulated for EU countries.





Building a skyscraper in Senegal



Tekfen Construction's Business Development Division is monitoring the latest global developments with a fine eye. From Africa to Kazakhstan, from Albania to Northern Europe, wherever an opportunity presents itself, the Tekfen team is there to assess, analyse and evaluate, and, if appropriate, move in. Tekfen's research and analyses, and the contacts it makes, are often the precursor to projects that are vast in scope and which provide employment to thousands. Each project has its own story, but perhaps the most intriguing of them will, if realised, be the one in which a Senegalese businessman visited Tekfen Construction and said that he wished to "build a skyscraper".





Can you talk a little about the work and the aims of the Business Development Department?

Fatih Can (VP, Business Development): Tekfen Construction has a Strategic Plan that outlines its goals for the next five years and the regions and the sectors in which it wishes to work. As the Business Development Team, we strive to develop concrete strategies in line with this plan and work hard to ensure we do not miss any opportunities. We are constantly trying to turn reliable and respected customers' projects into concrete business by joining forces with the right partners.

Uluç Keskin (Head of Business Development): As Tekfen Construction, we would like as many of the projects we bid for to originate from the Business Development Department. One can never predict where the "business" lies. What matters here is human relations. We represent the company to the outside world, we are responsible for presentations, publicity, participation at conferences and gatherings, and researching micro- and macro-markets. Even without any specific target project, we must visit many countries and scrutinize its general business environment. Whether it is local or foreign contractors that are being given the go ahead, how the country is run, whether the climate is suitable for us to do business in... You could say that the foundation of our work is forming information networks, being open and confident, being prepared for lots of travel, being multilingual and able to easily communicate with others. We follow the market, analyse its dynamics, and try to predict future development based on

our evaluations. We carry the responsibility of generating and maintaining sound contacts in line with Tekfen's goals. Consequently, in terms of preserving a steady backlog, we do not have the luxury of relaxing even for a moment, of falling into complacency thinking we already have enough projects on the go.

Ferda Grtay (Business Development Engineer): One aspect of our work is to properly maintain our Certificates of Completion, as those are the records that can be shown to any management team or employer about projects you did. In order to compete for a public tender, one has to have undertaken similar projects over the last 15 years. Therefore, procuring this certificate from the relevant office at the end of a project is vitally important and we pursue this work diligently to make sure our records are up to date and complete. Moreover, all Certificates of Completion to be used in bids for public tender up to the beginning of 2018 must be registered and uploaded to the Public Procurement Authority. Documents that have not been registered are not accepted. We are thus keeping track of our records in this context too.

With such a wide radar, what are your sources of information? How do you stay on track?

Fatih Can: We read a lot and try not to miss anything. We keep track of many publications and also maintain contact with the management teams we have previously worked with, and so manage to learn a lot from them. We are not the only ones looking for opportunities; our partners and our com-

petitors are out there too. There is no such a thing as a standard channel or procedure. We need to look at everything. Our source may be a visit we have made, or an announcement for bids for tender. It may even be somebody walking into the lobby and saying, "I'm going to have a skyscraper built in Senegal." We try to talk to everybody, but we make sure we are discreet and meticulous when we do so. Because the Tekfen Bidding Department comes in right after us. If we say yes, they spring into action and will spend months on preparing a bid, and their efforts will turn into work and thus employment for thousands of people.

Is the story about the skyscraper in Senegal true?

Burak Henden (Senior Business Development Engineer): Information reaches us via a number of channels. It can be an email or a telephone call, but whatever it is, we take each one seriously. The gentleman Fatih Can mentioned contacted us with reference from the Council of Commerce at the Embassy of Senegal in Ankara. We checked who he was and confirmed he was indeed from an eminent and well-known Senegalese family. He owns a valuable plot of land in the city centre on which he wants to build a block of luxury flats and he wanted us to collaborate with him. We sometimes get these odd individual cases. But that's not that easy. For instance, if we were to do business in Senegal, we would need to know everything we can about the country: where it is, what kind of country it is, its culture, the cultural and political climate, its suitability for business, and so on. For us to be interested in any project, it must be in line with

our company's standards, from engineering to procurement, through management and finally construction itself. Sustainable market conditions are also assumed and expected. Simply going into a country to complete one single project and then departing may not be the most logical thing to do. That is why we monitor and periodically report the country's political and economic developments very carefully. We travel a lot and we also read a lot.

Uluç Keskin: It's vital that we do not reject any request for a visit, a project or a meeting without serious evaluation first, and without studying, listening and understanding. We cannot have any prejudices or preconceived notions. There have been times when interesting suggestions have arisen of their own accord. We have to take every offer seriously and appraise all of them. We are in touch with many people and more often than not, making the right decision means choosing the right person.

How many people are there in your team?

Uluç Keskin: We are a team of 12 at our headquarters. We have representation in Casablanca, Azerbaijan, Qatar and Saudi Arabia too and liaison offices in Moscow, Ashkabat and Baghdad. We also work with the Council for Foreign Economic Relations (DEİK) and have membership of certain business councils. The conversations and contacts initiated at such gatherings can lead to interesting places.

What differences do you see between in the style and structure of the Turkish contracting sector in the past and now, and in terms of geography? And where does Tekfen stand amidst these changes?

Fatih Can: Contracting as a sector is well suited to the Turkish character and to our culture. Throughout our history, Turks have been getting on their horses, conquering new lands and settling down, getting organised and adapt very easily. This has been our story from Central Asia all the way to the Balkans. The contracting sector has developed with these same urges and instincts. "Do you need me?" "Yes!" "Where?" "In Libya." "I'm flying in on the next plane. A month later, I'll bring a thousand workers over..." No other culture or nation has this same drive or impulse. It is deeply ingrained in our culture. But this style of doing business is now coming to an end. Countries and companies with lower labour costs are entering the playing field, which means the previous way of doing business is no longer an appropriate model. Simply moving to a new place is not a long-term solution. We need to improve our technology, which means we have to have expertise in certain fields. The essential question is, how can we move up to a higher level of technology? If we do that, we can continue to prosper in

the markets in which we have a presence and experience. Moving into new markets will also be easy if we manage to utilise more sophisticated technology. We do a proper job wherever we have a presence. Our work is of a high quality and we stand by our commitments. But there are also places we cannot take our workers, due to visa problems and other such obstacles. How can we operate in these places? That is when you need to use your technological skills and your management prowess. These are the things we need to build on. With the new markets, we need to concentrate on the technologies in which Tekfen is expert.

How are you working on these issues?

Fatih Can: Everything in the world is now connected to technology. We need to be prudent in this area. We cannot do everything. We need to choose the areas in which we can and will operate. In other words, expert contractor work is what we should be doing. We have certain specified priority areas. When identifying these areas, we don't just think of today but of needs that may emerge in the future, whilst also taking sustainability into consideration. Water purification, for instance.... Water purification technology is at the forefront of the technologies in which we are aiming for high proficiency. It is not a new area, and we are trying to enter this field in such a way as to be able to satisfy all the demands from A to Z, from technology through to turnkey projects. We do not want just the contracting part. Contractors build and hand over the facility to its investor. In other words, they work to a specified contract, within a specified framework, whereas taking charge of project and its operation requires a much more long-term approach. We are trying to have Tekfen Holding "on board" as an investor.

İlda Değirmentaş (Business Development Coordinator, Water and Waste Water Treatment Projects): The issue of water is a serious one all over the world. There is talk afoot of "water wars" in the future. That alone tells us how important wa-

ter is. Because clean water supplies are limited, reclaiming water and making it available for reuse is an increasingly important topic. Within the framework of the "zero discharge" concept, it doesn't matter where you go, the reclaiming and reuse of polluted and waste water is in increasingly high demand. This is where technology enters the frame. We as Tekfen do not possess the technology at the moment, and are therefore currently looking for technology suppliers or business partners with whom we can join forces. The main disadvantage in this area is the fact that the water treatment business remains small in scale next to Tekfen's current projects. As such, the business is profitable only if one is able to provide technology as well. Since we don't have this technology, we wish to move ahead with a partner. We have already initiated discussions with candidate firms in Europe and America. This venture may move ahead with small steps, as there are already large and experienced firms in the market. Nevertheless, regardless of the size of the projects we undertake, we need to show that we set out to be long-term players by using our own methods and strategies and by committing to Tekfen's quality and using it as a bedrock. Our greatest advantage in this respect is that Tekfen has already proven itself wherever it has conducted business, and we wish to capitalise on this aspect to develop and expand rapidly.

Fatih Can: In its current guise, Tekfen İnşaat is a construction firm. Although investments and operations may not fully correspond to our current business model, we have a holding company backing us. This is the advantage of being a holding company. One can move ahead rapidly under its control and coordination in partnership with other companies. Water and renewable energy are our priority areas. As the global economy stutters, so competition has increased, and we have no choice but to be a part of this competition. Because otherwise, the moment you stop, you stumble and fall.

Which areas do our work and our priorities in the field of renewable energy cover?

Fatih Can: The field of renewable energy corresponds completely with the Tekfen Group's principles and vision. Opening a space for ourselves in certain areas in the field of clean and renewable energy is a strategic goal. The Business Development Department is Tekfen's representative in this area. The work is closely monitored and coordinated by Tekfen Holding. We are trying to give birth to a new baby.

Sinan Seyhun (Business Development Coordinator, Renewable Energy): The energy sector has its own dynamics. In wind and solar power in particular, the actual construction makes up only a fraction of the business. 85% of the investment goes on



equipment and technology. As a result, finding a place on the business and operational sides makes more sense. The first thing I did when I began working here was to look at the opportunities that could be found in the regions in which Tekfen was already active. For instance, in Jordan, tender was put out for a 200 megawatt-capacity plant. Another tender was announced in Morocco. Saudi Arabia announced it would launch a thousand-plus gigawatt investment in the renewable energy sector by the year 2020. However, to be a part of such projects, one needs references first. To qualify for bidding, one not only has to have made investments of at least 100-200 megawatts in wind power and 50-60 megawatts in solar, one is also expected to have operated these installations for a few years at least. In this context, we decided to first look at what we could accomplish in Turkey. In Europe now, more than half of the investments in the energy sector are in wind and solar power. Renewable energy is one of the fastest growing industries. Although the profit margins may have fallen slightly over the last few years, there is still a huge amount of business to be done. In a relatively mature market such as Turkey's, one cannot find the huge profit-making projects of old, but as the sector is now firmly settled here, things operate more smoothly. What we would like to do is start a project in Turkey where we can forecast outcomes to a degree and then move on to countries with higher profit margins. This could be in the Balkans or in the Middle East, or in any of the CIS countries. As for geothermal energy plants, these are the type of facilities Tekfen is more accustomed to build. But if we are talking about wind and solar energy, it would make more sense to be an investor instead.

Tekfen generally conducts business in oil and gas-rich countries. Is there a place for renewable energy in these countries?

Sinan Seyhun: Several oil and gas-rich countries, from the UAE to Qatar and from Kuwait to Saudi Arabia, have recently announced plans for investment in this area. This is a business with investments that are worth tens of billions of dollars. The most competitive tenders may very well be offered in these countries, as it is these countries that are looking to generate electricity as economically as possible. Last year in Abu Dhabi, the cost of solar energy was reduced to 3 cents per kilowatt per hour. This obviously attracts a great deal of interest. Moreover, as a result of financial and state support, these countries are very good places in which to invest.

İlida Değirmentaş: The Middle East is abundant in oil but not in water. There are many desalination plants in the region but these plants requires huge amounts of energy to run, which is why generating energy and producing drinking water as cheaply as

possible using solar power have become priority areas. It is a topic that frequently comes up at international water summits and conferences.

Fatih Can: Salinity levels in the Persian Gulf have risen dramatically as a result of the desalination plants, and this has upset the entire ecological balance of the region. The issue is not just water, naturally. Life expectancies have risen worldwide and the world population is increasing rapidly. In the not too distant future, it is clear that this will all have profound consequences on our children's lives. We now have a duty not to pollute so much and to consume less, and these realities will inevitably have an effect on our business. That is why we must always act with the future in mind.

As the Business Development Department, when looking at the people sitting around this table, the importance given to renewable energy is quite clear. In this regard, we would like to become better acquainted with the newcomers to the firm and hear some of their ideas.

Cihan Kaçar (Project Development Engineer, Renewable Energy): I joined the team only a couple of months ago. I started in the energy sector in 2008 at a German-based wind turbine manufacturing firm. After that, I moved on to another German firm, an engineering consultancy firm, where I worked for 6 years. Tekfen is a firm looking to invest in the field of energy. There is a stream of new projects that are continually developing and being developed. We assess each one thoroughly and try to see how they would pan out. We are also careful that the projects are environmentally friendly. When I applied for this position, I did not know that Tekfen was looking to invest in renewable energy. It was a surprise for me, and it naturally increased my interest in Tekfen yet further.

Engin Aytekin (Investment Assessment Specialist): I also joined the Tekfen family recently, 5 months ago. What I do is create financial models for investments in the fields of renewable energy and PPP (Public Private Partnership). I am familiar with the energy sector, thanks to my previous jobs. The difference between Tekfen and the companies I have previously worked is that Tekfen pays great attention to detail and is far more risk-averse. For instance, when preparing to bid for a tender for an energy licence, we proceed as though we have already been awarded the project and go into minute details, as though we are about to begin operating the plant itself. I have seen decisions made in the sector with far more superficial work. In the period since my joining Tekfen, we have been working closely with banks in order to formulate financing models. We want these models to determine the prices we offer when bidding for tender.



Mert Sözdinletir (Business Development Engineer): I recently completed my first year at Tekfen, and during this period, I have had the chance to get to know the Tekfen family better. I already knew a little about Tekfen from my internship here when I was a student and from graduate friends from Bosphorus University. However, since starting work, I have noticed that the most important thing here is the corporate structure. There is a settled structure here and a well-established tradition. As the Business Development Department, we work on formulating the company's strategy and future business. We conduct analyses and studies in order to be more competitive. We are constantly monitoring the markets and the developing world. For example, a few weeks ago when I was in the elevator, I happened to bump into a banker; that banker will soon be coming here for a meeting with us to discuss credit availability for our projects. You can never tell when or from where an opportunity may arise. Whilst surfing the web the other day, I saw a tender for CERN, the European Nuclear Research Centre. We are planning on submitting a bid for it as Tekfen Manufacturing and our Steel Manufacturing Plant in Ceyhan, Southeast Turkey. What we are trying to do is expand our vision as much as possible.

As technology, business time scales and economic conditions rapidly evolve on the global level, are there any outside organisations you consult or with which you collaborate in order to keep track of developments regarding the directions the sector will take?

Mert Sözdinletir: In this regard, we are constantly reading and observing. Not just the news channels but also research reports and articles and papers by strategists. We also get information from various institutes and universities.



Preparing for the mission to Mars

We are both proud and delighted at the outstanding performance of the Tekfen Holding-sponsored İTÜ (İstanbul Technical University) Rover Team at the URC (University Rover Challenge) held at the Mars Desert Research Station in Utah between 1st and 3rd of June.

Every year since 2007, the Mars Society holds an intriguing competition at the Mars Desert Research Station near the town of Hanksville in the state of Utah in the USA. The competitors are rovers, or space research vehicles, designed and built by students from universities from all over the world. During the competition, numerous tasks are demanded of the candidate vehicles, which are designed to work and carry out research on extraterrestrial surfaces. In many cases, the innovations and breakthroughs made by these students are a source of inspiration to real-time space researchers.

This year, a Turkish team entered the URC for the first time. The İstanbul Technical University Rover Team was one of 36 teams chosen from 82 entrants to be invited to compete in Utah under desert conditions that simulated the conditions on the surface of Mars. Despite certain difficulties and setbacks that can be attributed to a lack of experience, the İTÜ Rover Team finished thirteenth out of the 36 competitors, a result that bodes well for the future.



The girls take to the pitch with Tekfen Real Estate on their side



Tekfen Real Estate was one of the sponsors of the “Girls on the Pitch” Academy, an enterprise that aims to introduce more girls to football in Turkey. 50 young girls took to the pitch for the first time with boots supplied by Tekfen Real Estate.

Formed in 2016 with the aim of boosting girls’ self confidence and promoting gender equality, the “Girls on the Pitch” Academy organises week-long camps to introduce football to girls in Turkey under the tutelage of a professional trainer, to instil in them a sense of team spirit and to promote football as a fun sport that can be played and enjoyed by anybody. Seminars and workshops are also held during the camp, giving the girls a chance to expand their cultural and artistic horizons.

This year, 50 young girls between the ages of 10 and 12 took part in the event, which was organised and run by volunteers from the Bosphorus University Sports Club and sponsored by Tekfen Real Estate. By providing their boots, Tekfen gave them the chance to take their first steps onto the football field.



A farewell after 77 years



Dear Friends of our Beloved Brother Feyyaz,

Today, it is with great sadness, that we say farewell to Feyyaz, in front of this very same door through which, along the years, he entered with such passion, purpose and drive.

After the loss of our beloved Necati, with whom the three of us founded Tekfen, I am now filled with grief at the passing away of our dear Feyyaz.

Whenever I think of Feyyaz, I think of understanding, enterprise and leadership.

Whether it be at work or in the field of social responsibility, whenever a new project was on the agenda he was there, taking the initiative, taking charge, mulling over it day and night.

Whenever a new venture was established, there was no need to search for a founding chairman; that was the kind of man he was. The Turkish Industry and Business Association, the Foreign Economic Relations Board, and the Family Planning and Health Foundation are just a few of the many notable boards and bodies he chaired.

Education was always on his mind; a top priority, his primary field of duty. How can his many projects that prove his love for and loyalty to Atatürk ever be forgotten?

And when it comes to Tekfen, I personally witnessed his passion that for 60 years bordered on a love affair. His passing away is a huge loss, for Tekfen and for the country as a whole.

The greatest loss, of course, is felt by his family. But for one other person his death has come as a crushing blow. His schoolfriend, comrade and fellow traveller for 77 years, in other words myself.

I remember fondly his devotion and dedication to his country, and as I do so, I bid him farewell. May he rest in peace.

A. Nihat Gökyiğit

(Commemorative speech, August 24th, 2017)