

## PIPELINES

### SEVER - I Welding Equipment Proves Its Worth

We are approaching - the helicopter pilot shouts from his cabin - get ready!

Below us is a small, remote-shift settlement comprising about twenty trailers and beside it, like a meridian on a map, runs the straight contour of a pipeline.

Here, at the construction site of the Yamburg-Elets gas pipeline, they are using the automatic contact welding equipment for large-diameter pipes Sever (North)-1. The mass production of these machines was undertaken four years ago by the Pskov factory of heavy electric welding equipment.

In the settlement, they are already waiting for us. A powerful all-terrain vehicle takes us to the line where the Sever installation is located. Having no counterpart anywhere in the world, even its appearance resembles a bizarre cosmic apparatus rather than a machine for pipe welding.

The Sever-1 has introduced a radical change in the technology of pipeline construction. The welding is automatic, it does not require special electrodes or propane for heating the joints, it works at low temperatures, in blizzards, there is no need for a whole team of flaw detection workers because the quality of the same is determined during the welding process by automatic recorders, which are part and parcel of the equipment. The team servicing the Sever is just one third of the number of workers needed for manual welders.