

As InCamera went to press, a second French lab has been added to the complement of European laboratories accredited to the Imagecare Program. This is the famous Éclair Laboratoires in Paris which celebrates its centenary this year. Watch out for a profile in our next issue in July.

# Magnificent Seven for Moscow's Salamandra Lab

Last year was a very important one for Russia's Creative Lab Salamandra. In November it achieved accreditation to the Kodak Imagecare Program for the seventh consecutive year. Salamandra Lab is accredited to the Program both for Camera Negative Film Processing and for Release Printing Services. For its latest accreditation, the lab achieved a score of 97%, a remarkable achievement that reflects the dedicated efforts of its 170 staff. Head of the laboratory, Eduard Gimpel, was recently presented with a Golden Eagle award, one of the Russian movie world's highest accolades for his professional consistency.

Alexei Bochkov is Kodak's Technical Representative for the Greater Russia region and one of the major driving forces behind Salamandra's Imagecare Program accreditation. He is very proud of the lab's status and said, "The Imagecare Program rules are becoming increasingly strict particularly when you take into consideration the hybrid nature of much post-production work today. This means that there are much narrower parameters for film processing standards, many more procedures to be written and performed and much more attention required regarding cleanliness in the lab. In addition it is hard work to adapt such procedures and follow them especially when, in many cases, you are operating 24 hours a day. It is a tribute to Salamandra staff that they achieved such a high score and this reflects both their pride in and the quality of their work."

Moscow's Salamandra Lab has been working successfully in the Russian market now for the last ten years. Indeed, there is hardly a film that is made in Russia that does not have a Salamandra logo in its end credits. Participation in the Imagecare Program has allowed the lab to further its development and in the last two years it has added new projection halls where colour correction on brand new equipment takes place. The latest in scanners and film recorders have been added to its digital technical facilities as well as a telecine suite. The lab has also acquired a new colour analyser and liquid chemical and process control ware. All these acquisitions and developments have enabled the facility to deal with an increased production volume and in 2006 Salamandra developed nearly 4 million meters of negative.

Salamandra lab doesn't just concentrate on standard processes. It is very keen to encourage cinematographers to embrace alternative looks offered by new film processing technologies such as negative and positive skip bleach processing.

Salamandra has also embraced digital intermediate technology and estimates that it helps produce some 30 movies each year employing this technique. Recent examples include *9th Company*, *Airframe*, *The Isle and The Sovereign's Groom*. At present the lab is working on *The Gloss*, *12 Irate Men*, *The Bunch of Lilac* and *1612*, all of which also use DI.

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Perhaps the last words are best left to, Eduard Gimpel who said, "Each motion picture, each script and each artist must be offered the opportunity to choose what technology to work with. We must be able to reach the goals set for us by the creative people, making the best use of our talent, imagination, dramatic understanding and taking into consideration our modern-day life."

1 Scene from *The Sovereign's Groom*

2 Scene from *The Bunch of Lilac*

3 Salamandra's head of laboratory, Eduard Gimpel proudly receiving his Golden Eagle Award

