

PE piping systems in São Paulo

A reliable water supply for 10 million households

To reduce water loss, Sabesp is modernizing its water network in São Paulo with PE piping systems.

Brazil wants to guarantee reliable access to clean drinking water for its entire population by 2030. This goal is in accordance with the sustainable development guidelines set forth by the United Nations. In order to achieve this, Brazilian utility company Sabesp has invested about CHF 972 million into the water network of São Paulo, the most densely populated municipality in the country. Currently, the company is modernizing 700 kilometers of its network with modern polyethylene solutions by GF Piping Systems for a long-term, safe, and efficient water supply.

Project background

Sabesp is responsible for a pipe network with a combined length of around 88.000 kilometers which supplies water to 28 million people in the region. Aiming to make this supply as safe and efficient as possible, Sabesp wants to minimize commercial and physical water losses. Regarding physical losses, the company relies on modern pressure management as well as improved leak detection. However, the main focus lies in modernizing the infrastructure by installing modern pipes made of polyethylene.

Selected technical solution

While searching for solutions that can fulfil the high demands of the project, Sabesp selects GF FGS, the Brazilian subsidiary of GF Piping Systems. The two companies offer the modular ELGEF Plus ecosystem, a range of polyethylene pressurized piping systems that are corrosion-free, lightweight, cost-effective, and durable. As a result, Sabesp decides to gradually replace the old metal pipes with the new PE products on a 700-kilometer section of its network. The polyethylene components also win the client over with their trenchless technology as opening trenches, especially in São Paulo, can be a big challenge. The necessary jointing technologies, as well as tools such as electrofusion machines, are also sourced from GF Piping Systems and GF FGS for the project.

Achieved improvement

The new polyethylene piping systems introduce a number of benefits compared to traditional components. Firstly, they reduce the maintenance costs for the water network as they are quick and easy to install as well as corrosion-free, making them very durable. At the same time, the corrosion-free construction combined with the high quality of the welds ensures that water reliably arrives where it is needed. Another important aspect for Sabesp is the modularity of the ELGEF Plus ecosystem which offers flexibility for future upgrades to the water network in São Paulo.

Your Contact

Georg Fischer Piping Systems Ltd
Ebnatstrasse 111
8201 Schaffhausen
Switzerland

Phone +41 (0) 52 631 30 26
www.gfps.com



GF Piping Systems supplies not only the piping system, but also the jointing technology.



The ELGEF Plus ecosystem is versatile and can be flexibly customized for every application

Customer Benefits

- **Piping Systems made of polyethylene are corrosion-free and durable. This reduces the risk of leakages and guarantees a reliable water supply**
- **The material properties of PE, as well as the quick and easy installation, reduce maintenance requirements and therefore costs**
- **Thanks to trenchless technology, existing pipes can be relined with the ELGEF Plus systems made of polyethylene**

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