

Media Release

Schaffhausen

July 2021

INSTAFLEX

Sustainable large-scale project by armasuisse Immobilien

Expansion of Auenfeld Barracks in Frauenfeld, Switzerland

The Auenfeld barracks on the Frauenfeld military training area will be renovated and expanded in four stages by the end of 2030 at a cost of 326 million Swiss francs. Energy efficiency, building ecology and health enjoy a high priority at armasuisse Immobilien, the DDPS real estate expertise center. The target is a certification of the buildings according to Minergie-ECO. The corrosion-free plastic piping system INSTAFLEX from GF Piping Systems meets the required sustainability criteria and offers further benefits.

Project background

Switzerland's second largest military training area is being built at Auenfeld in Frauenfeld. The first construction phase with an investment volume of 121 million Swiss francs includes a replacement building for the catering center with a capacity of 1700 meals per day, the construction of a new regional medical center, an additional four-story accommodation building with 550 beds, three training halls and the addition of two floors to the command building. All roofs will be equipped with photovoltaic systems, heating will be provided by the nearby data center, domestic water will be treated by heat pumps, and the rooms will be mechanically ventilated.

GF Piping Systems solution

The building services planners at Amstein-Walthert chose INSTAFLEX for the cold and hot water installations as well as compressed air lines. The corrosion-free piping system made of the flexible plastic polybutene offers a wide range of dimensions from d16 mm to d315 mm. Polybutene has a much lower expansion force compared to steel and other plastics. This is picked up by means of rigid assembly. This means that there is no need for expansion loops and legs or costly expansion joints. Polybutene also has a great eco-balance, is durable, incrustation-free as well as sound-absorbing and does not release any flavoring or harmful substances.

Simple, time-saving installation

Most of the installers at the Steger plumbing company were not very familiar with INSTAFLEX's capabilities. They were trained on site by GF Piping Systems specialists in theory and practice. "After just one day, everyone mastered welding and assembling," says Michael Gottschling, Steger's supervising assembler. "Prefabrication of the basement route using the socket fusion jointing technology saved a lot of time." The transitions from INSTAFLEX to the chrome steel press system in existing structures were accomplished with specially designed plastic press transitions.

Word count: 2464 characters (with spaces)



Catering center of the barracks Auenfeld
Image: VIZE architectural rendering.
Architecture: Baumschlager Eberle Architects



Expansion of the second largest military training area in Switzerland.
Image: armasuisse Immobilien



Steger plumbers are professionals at installing INSTAFLEX.



The installation of system valves is very easy.

Benefits of INSTAFLEX

- Wide dimension range d16-d315
- 4 possible jointing technologies with one type of pipe (electrofusion, socket and butt fusion, clamp connection)
- 1 fusion device for 10 dimensions
- Totally corrosion and incrustation free
- Hygienically flawless
- Great ecological balance

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Contact for media

For further information, please contact our media team at the following email address:
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You can find pictures in a printable resolution at the following link:

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Boilerplate updated

About GF Piping Systems

GF Piping Systems is the global specialist for safe and reliable transportation of water, chemicals, and gas. The company specializes in plastic piping systems and system solutions with service in all phases of your project. GF Piping Systems is represented by its own sales companies in 31 countries and manufactures at more than 30 locations worldwide. In 2020, GF Piping Systems generated sales of CHF 1708 million and employed 6893 people. GF Piping Systems is a division of Georg Fischer AG, which was founded in 1802 and is based in Schaffhausen, Switzerland.

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