

26th August 2014

## Saint-Gobain PAM ductile iron demonstrates its high-tech capacities in extreme conditions in the Austrian Tyrol

Saint-Gobain PAM has just been awarded a large-scale contract, which specifically highlights its expertise, for the provision of 3,400 linear metres of DN 1400 high-pressure pipeline in the Pitztal valley (Austrian Tyrol).

A public-private partnership has brought together the districts of Imst and Jerzens, on the one hand, and the private investors Gerd Wechselberger and the Horst Androschin Stiftung, on the other, with the aim of constructing a micro-hydroelectric plant designed to supply power to more than 4,000 homes, in accordance with both Austria's and the European Union's energy and environmental policy.

It is the quality of Saint-Gobain PAM's product combined with **almost 30 years experience of hydroelectric pipelines**, as well as the fact that it has equipped 350 hydroelectric power plants with 400 kilometres of pipes, which made the difference.

### Experienced teams

- Saint-Gobain PAM Austria's sales and engineering teams have worked closely together and helped to put forward the best possible technical and economic solution.

*"Saint-Gobain PAM's teams were in contact with decision-makers from the very beginning of the project and were able to convince them to **look at the operation from the point of view of overall cost**, on the basis of a medium and long term competitive offering, which includes not only the provision of pipes, but also the installation, durability and reliability of facilities over time",* says Albert Möltner, the Managing Director of Saint-Gobain Gussrohrvertrieb.

- Saint-Gobain PAM's teams have put in place **meticulously timed logistics**, which take account of both the constraints of the site (very little open space, steep slopes) and scheduling requirements, guaranteeing initial deliveries of 3,400 linear metres of DN 1 400 pipes from early July 2014.

## Ductile iron, a straightforward choice

- The properties of ductile iron and the quality of its coatings guarantee a **network lifespan of more than 100 years**. It is a **reliable, durable and 100% recyclable material**. Its extremely favourable environmental rating makes a full contribution to protecting particularly vulnerable mountain regions. Arguments that were used to win the support of the region's environmental organisations!
- Saint-Gobain PAM's high-pressure pipelines are **ideally suited** to the extremely restrictive installation and operating conditions in mountainous areas. Thanks to their long-term durability and strength, they can be safely installed in rocky areas and on steep slopes. The outstanding reliability of their seals and anchoring systems enables them to easily **withstand extremely high pressures**. When it comes to **pipeline networks for snow canons**, more than 50 winter sports resorts have placed their trust in Saint-Gobain PAM's solutions.
- They originate from France or Europe, a highly important additional asset, given that **meticulous and reliable** logistics are essential for construction projects in the mountains, which can only be undertaken during very short periods of the year because of the extreme weather conditions.

A specific set of characteristics that make Saint-Gobain PAM's high-performance pipelines the **benchmark solution on the hydroelectricity** and snow canon markets, sectors in which they are able to fully demonstrate their qualities.

## Increasingly connected...Hydroelectricity

Initial operating tests, prior to connection to the power grid, are scheduled for the spring of 2015, with completion and commissioning of the plant in the summer of 2015.

One site leads to another... a few kilometres away in the same valley, a similar project is being examined. **The accomplishment of this first operation** should put Saint-Gobain Gussrohrvertrieb in an excellent position to successfully finalise this new high mountain project.

**As a supplier in a dozen European countries making use of its know-how and based on its hydroelectric expertise, Saint-Gobain PAM will be attending the forthcoming Hydro 2014 trade fair, which will be taking place close to Lake Como (Italy) between the 13th and 15th of October. It legitimately has a place among the worldwide specialists in hydroelectricity.**

## About Saint-Gobain PAM

*As the worldwide leader in complete ductile iron pipeline systems, **Saint-Gobain PAM** currently has operations in more than 126 countries. **Saint-Gobain PAM** designs, produces and markets a full range of dedicated water pipeline solutions. For more than 150 years, its reputation in the pipeline sector has been based on its expertise and the reliability of its products, as well as the high level of service offered to clients.*

*The pipeline division employs 9,835 people and has 21 industrial sites in 9 countries, as well as 13 companies and sales agents, and generated a turnover of more than €1.6 billion in 2013. With a workforce of 2,444 employees, **Saint-Gobain PAM** has a turnover of €732 M, 58% of which is generated by exports.*

*For more information on Saint-Gobain PAM, please visit [www.pamline.com](http://www.pamline.com)*

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 **Visuals on the following page. DR Saint-Gobain PAM**



*The Pitztal valley, in the Austrian Alps*



*DN 1 400 pipes*



*Overview of the site with the pipes*