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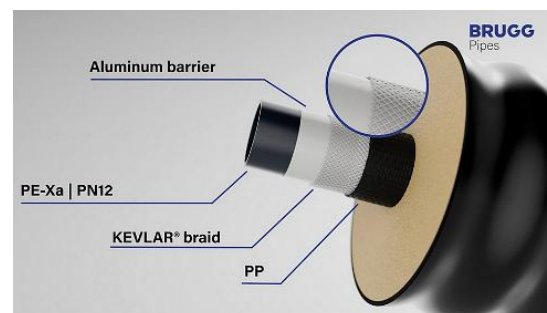
BRUGG Pipes launched reinforced ARMOPEX system for modern DH networks

The new high-performance, flexible pipe system was specifically developed to meet the growing demands of modern local and district heating networks. The aramid-reinforced composite pipe system is designed for operating pressures of up to 12 bar (PN12) and temperatures of up to 115 °C, effectively bridging the gap between conventional PEX pipe systems and cost-intensive metallic solutions. Product lunch in D and CH at a later date.

BRUGG Pipes KWD-globalpipe, 28.05.2026. The ongoing transformation of heat supply towards more efficient, dynamic and sustainable networks places new demands on infrastructure. Lower system temperatures, higher volume flows, decentralized feed-in from renewable energy sources as well as fluctuating load and flow directions require pipe systems that combine high safety margins with economic efficiency.

ARMOPEX is based on an aramid-reinforced PE-Xa inner pipe with an integrated aluminium diffusion barrier. This combination offers high flexibility together with exceptional mechanical strength while reliably preventing oxygen diffusion. As a result, corrosion risks are reduced, heat losses minimized and the service life of the entire heating network significantly extended.

A key feature of ARMOPEX is its outstanding energy efficiency. The PUR thermal insulation used achieves a thermal conductivity of $\lambda = 0.0199 \text{ W/mK}$ (at 50 °C), one of the lowest values worldwide. This enables significantly reduced heat losses and contributes to lower operating costs as well as the implementation of sustainable heating networks.



With ARMOPEX, BRUGG Pipes reinforces its expertise in developing future-proof piping systems and offers planners, installers and network operators a powerful alternative for the heating networks of today and tomorrow. © BRUGG

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HIX Publishing, Dipl.-Ing. Jutta Hix, 58332 Schwelm /Germany, Tel. +49 (0)2336 / 40 66 42, www.kwd-globalpipe.de. **Subscription rates:** 40 issues per year EUR 250,00 (Germany: + VAT). Subscription will be renewed automatically for a further year unless cancelled in writing 8 weeks before expiry date. Up to 5 persons of the ordering company can receive KWD-globalpipe. © **KWD-globalpipe**. All rights reserved. **Editor in Chief:** Dipl.-Ing. Jutta Hix, **Assistant Editors:** Michaela Hamich-Helbrecht, Achim Seydel.

Thanks to delivery in long, customer-specific coils, **ARMOPEX can be installed with minimal joints**. This reduces installation time, minimizes potential sources of error and lowers overall installation costs. A robust, UV-resistant outer jacket made of LLD-PE reliably protects the pipe system against moisture, mechanical stress and environmental influences.

Specially developed clamp-on connections are available for joining technology. These allow fast and secure installation without special tools and are offered in various designs, including welded and screwed connectors, T-pieces and elbows.

ARMOPEX is manufactured in accordance with EN 15632 as a composite system with longitudinal water tightness, complies with the TR4 temperature profile in accordance with TS 17889, and is designed for a service life of more than 50 years. Typical applications include local and district heating networks, house-to-house connections as well as industrial, agricultural and infrastructure projects.

The company has informed us, that the new ARMOPEX pipe system will only be launched at a later date in Germany and Switzerland.

Contact: BRUGG Pipes, Switzerland, www.bruggpipes.com

BRUGG Pipes receives EHP002 certification for flexible pipe systems

BRUGG Pipes has successfully obtained certification according to the EHP 002 quality standard from Euroheat & Power for several flexible pipe systems. The certification applies to the FLEXSTAR & CALPEX as well as COOLFLEX & EIGERFLEX product families in various dimensions for flexible local and district heating and cooling systems.



KWD-globalpipe, 28.05.2026. This makes BRUGG Pipes one of the few manufacturers in Europe whose flexible pipe systems are certified according to this demanding quality standard. For network operators, planners, installers and general contractors, this provides an additional independent basis for decision-making when selecting high-quality pipe systems for modern local heating, district heating and cooling networks.

The certification confirms compliance with the European standards EN 15632 and EN 17414 for factory-made, flexible and bonded pipe systems. The certification process includes independent inspections by external auditors as well as regular monitoring of the production processes.

With the successful certification, BRUGG Pipes underlines its high quality standards for products, processes and manufacturing. The certified systems impress with high operational reliability, efficient thermal insulation and long-lasting, reliable performance in modern energy infrastructures.

With the voluntary EHP-002 certification, BRUGG Pipes is sending a clear signal for quality, transparency and reliability in a market where tested and independently monitored systems are becoming increasingly important.

Contact: BRUGG Pipes, Switzerland, www.bruggpipes.com

REHAU UK: RAUPIPEX, latest innovation in pre-insulated pipe won 4 industry awards

RAUPIPEX, REHAU's latest innovation in pre-insulated pipe for district heating has won Commercial HVAC Product of the Year – Components and Peripherals at the H&V News Awards.



KWD-globalpipe, 28.05.2026. It has been a great year for awards with RAUPIPEX shortlisted for four industry awards a true recognition of innovation and teamwork:

- H&V News Awards – Commercial HVAC Product of the Year
- HVR Awards – Ancillary Product of the Year
- Ireland Plumbing & Heating Magazine – Innovative Product of the Year
- UKDEA Awards – Heat Network Innovation of the Year

In addition to these awards shortlists, RAUPIPEX has been selected to feature in the first edition of the ADE's Showcasing Innovation Report.

Awards such as these recognize the huge effort in launching a new system solution that addresses the sectors most pressing challenges, including thermal efficiency, facilitating faster installations, ensuring system longevity, and reducing lifecycle emissions.

Developed based on extensive industry feedback and experience, RAUPIPEX offers the optimum combination of thermal performance and flexibility. The newly developed PU foam and outer jacket combination offer 20-35% reduced bending forces combined with similar PU-foamed pipes. This has been done without compromise to structural integrity, with the newly designed outer jacket offering an SN8 rating, creating the first PU-foam pre-insulated pipe range to reach this standard. In addition, the system features a new innovative longitudinal water barrier offering a new level of protection against moisture ingress, even if the outer jacket is partially damaged.

Contact: REHAU UK, <https://water.rehau.com/uk-en>



REHAU has launched RAUPIPEX, a universal local heating pipe for even faster network expansion, in 2024

© REHAU

ISOPLUS turns 35 – today a market leader in pre-insulated piping systems

35 years of isoplus district heating technology / Continuous growth over three decades / Robotic technology at the forefront in Europe

isoplus® KWD-globalpipe, 28.05.2026. isoplus Fernwärmetechnik GmbH, Germany's market leader for pre-insulated piping systems, is celebrating its 35th anniversary this year. What began in 1991 with a handful of employees in an empty hall of a decommissioned potash mine in Sondershausen, Germany, has grown into one of Thuringia's most significant industrial companies – with 709 employees, highly automated production and major projects that are driving the energy transition in Germany.

Continuous growth over three decades: The development of the workforce reflects the company's growth: from six employees in its founding year in 1991 to 189 (2005) and 396 (2015), reaching 709 today. Around 500 of them work at the main site in Sondershausen, while another 200 are based across Germany. Production capacities have been steadily expanded, technologies introduced and market share increased. The first PE extruders were installed in 1997. In 2022, a 3D pipe plasma cutting system followed, enabling automated and resource-efficient steel pipe processing. In 2023, robotic systems for PE welding and steel welding were commissioned.

Robotic technology at the forefront in Europe: One of these investments has attracted attention far beyond the region. In summer 2023, **ISOPLUS commissioned a welding system** in Sondershausen that is **unparalleled in Europe**: a handling robot lifts pipe bends – some as heavy as a small car – into position with millimeter precision. Two welding robots take over from there: they measure the seam using a laser scanner and weld fully automatically, achieving a level of precision and consistency that is hardly possible manually.

The ISOPLUS Group is a leading European manufacturer of pre-insulated pipe systems for district heating and cooling as well as industrial applications. For more than 35 years, we have set benchmarks in energy efficiency, sustainability, and technical excellence. With nine certified production sites across Europe and a team of around 1,600 professionals, we supply customers in more than 30 countries worldwide. Our services include planning, production, joint assembly, documentation, and construction and network monitoring. Each year, we produce more than 5,000 kilometers of rigid and

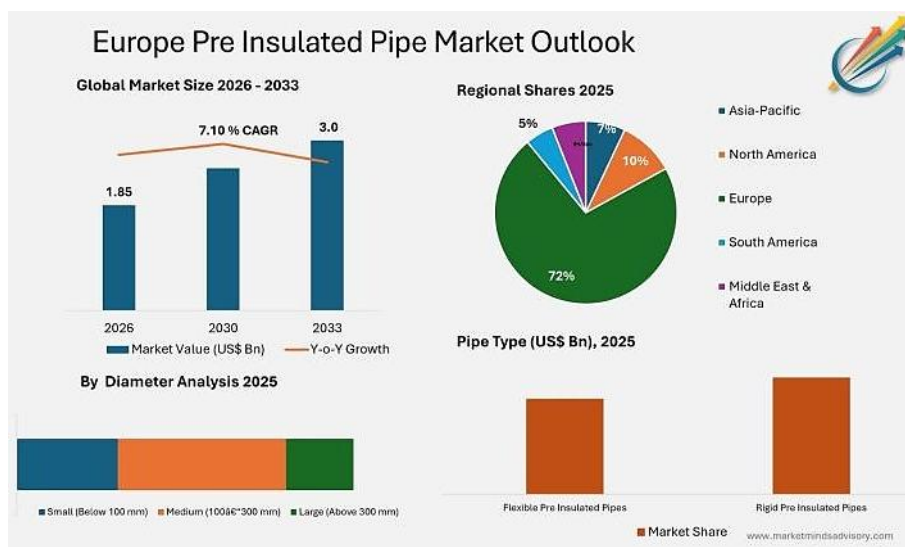
flexible pipe systems as well as accessories for a wide range of infrastructure projects. Our solutions enable the seamless integration of renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, biomass, and waste heat into district heating networks, making a significant contribution to the global energy transition.

isoplus Fernwärmetechnik GmbH is the German entity of isoplus GmbH. With more than 700 colleagues, it is not only the largest but also the highest-revenue unit within ISOPLUS and is home to the largest of the nine production sites.

Contact: isoplus GmbH, Germany, www.isoplus.group / [Full press release](#)

EUROPE Pre-Insulated Pipe Market is projected to grow at CAGR of 7.1% (2026-33)

Driven by Europe's accelerating energy transition and ongoing investments in district heating and cooling infrastructure, the market for pre-insulated pipe systems is expected to see strong and sustained growth over the coming years.



KWD-globalpipe, 28.05.2026. Increasing demand for energy-efficient thermal distribution networks, combined with stricter decarbonization targets across the EU, continues to support the expansion of advanced piping solutions throughout the region.

According to a recent market report, the European pre-insulated pipe market is projected to reach approximately USD 2.99 billion by 2033, growing at a CAGR of 7.1% between 2026 and 2033. The report highlights rising investments in sustainable heating infrastructure, smart thermal

grids, and renewable energy integration as key drivers behind this development. Pre-insulated piping systems are playing an increasingly important role in reducing thermal losses and improving energy efficiency in district heating, cooling, industrial, and utility applications.


The market outlook is particularly supported by modernization projects across Northern and Central Europe, where municipalities and utilities continue to upgrade aging heating networks in line with climate targets. In addition, growing urbanization, stricter environmental regulations, and the push toward low-carbon building solutions are expected to further strengthen demand for flexible and highly efficient pre-insulated pipe systems in the coming years.

Further information and the order form can be found here: [Market Minds Advisory Report Page](#)

Contact: Market Minds Advisory, India, <https://marketmindsadvisory.com/>

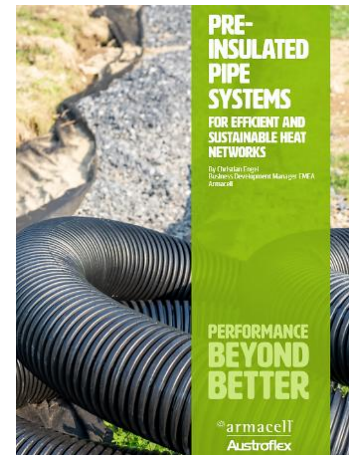
ARMACELL: Pre-insulated pipe systems for efficient&sustainable heat networks – 4GDH

In Armacell's new technical [white paper](#), "Pre-insulated pipe systems for efficient and sustainable heat networks," Christian Engel, Business Development Manager EMEA at Armacell, outlines how modern polymeric systems meet the performance and efficiency requirements of 4GDH.

 KWD-globalpipe, 28.05.2026. Flexible, pre-insulated pipe systems are playing an increasingly important role in the evolution of Europe's heat networks. As district heating develops towards more advanced, low-temperature fourth-generation networks (4GDH), polymer-based solutions offer practical advantages – enabling faster, more cost-effective installation while supporting long-term energy and climate goals.

Key takeaways

- **Rapid installation:** Deliver heat networks up to 4–5 times faster, with significantly less skilled labour required on site.
- **Energy efficiency:** Cut thermal losses by up to 40% – optimize energy use, reduce waste.
- **Durability & longevity:** Designed for demanding conditions –corrosion-resistant, low-maintenance, with a design life of up to 100 years.
- **Cost efficiency:** With 70% fewer joints and 30% narrower trenches, flexible pipe systems can offer up to 20% lower overall costs compared to rigid steel pipework.



4th generation district heating in Europe's energy transition

Driven by EU climate targets, the transition away from fossil fuels, and rising energy costs, heat networks are being recognized as a scalable solution for low-carbon heating, particularly in urban areas. Recent funding initiatives, regulatory product frameworks, and technological innovations are accelerating deployment across Germany, the Netherlands, France, and Central and Eastern Europe.

While third-generation heat networks typically operate with supply temperatures between 80 and 130°C and return temperatures around 40 to 60°C, 4GDH uses supply temperatures of 50 to 70°C and return temperatures of 20 to 40°C.


Compared to previous generations, 4GDH systems are more compatible with renewable energy technologies such as solar thermal and geothermal, as well as waste heat from industrial processes and data centers. They also facilitate the use of large-scale heat pumps, which can be powered by electricity from renewable sources.

At present, pre-insulated steel pipes hold by far the largest share in the district heating pipeline market, thanks to their ability to withstand elevated temperatures. The **remaining market share is primarily occupied by polymer-based pipes**, including materials like PB-1 and PE-Xa. These polymer systems are valued for their flexibility and ease of handling, which facilitates faster installation, especially in regions with complex terrains or where rapid deployment is essential. They are suitable for supply temperatures up to 95°C, making them a practical choice for low- to medium-temperature applications in 4GDH networks.

Contact: Armacell International S.A., Luxembourg, www.armacell.com / [White paper](#)

RIFENG participated at MCE 2026: Strengthening its presence across Europe

RIFENG's participation at MCE 2026 in Milan has successfully concluded, marking another important milestone in the company's continued expansion across the European market.

 KWD-globalpipe, 28.05.2026. Throughout the exhibition, RIFENG welcomed a steady flow of industry professionals, partners, and potential clients to its booth. With a comprehensive presentation of its piping system solutions, the company engaged in in-depth discussions on product applications, regulatory compliance, and localized market requirements.

Focused solutions for the European market

At MCE 2026, RIFENG presented key product highlights tailored to European standards and project requirements, including high-performance PPSU piping systems, advanced press-fitting solutions, and flexible OEM/ODM customization capabilities.

These solutions are designed to meet evolving European regulations and customer expectations, ensuring safety, reliability, and adaptability across a wide range of applications.

Strong engagement and high-quality leads

- During the four-day exhibition, RIFENG received hundreds of qualified inquiries, reflecting strong market interest in the company's product portfolio and system capabilities.
- The company further expanded its reach across various European regions, establishing new connections with customers from Eastern and Southern Europe, alongside partners from established Western European markets.
- This strong engagement highlights the growing recognition of RIFENG as a reliable partner within the European plumbing and piping industry.



RIFENG successfully exhibited at this year's MCE. © RIFENG

Looking ahead

The successful conclusion of MCE 2026 represents not only the end of a successful exhibition, but also the beginning of new opportunities. The valuable connections and market insights gained during the event will further support RIFENG's localized strategies and long-term partnerships across Europe. RIFENG remains committed to delivering safe, reliable, and compliant piping solutions and looks forward to strengthening collaboration with partners throughout the region.

Contact: RIFENG ENTERPRISE GROUP CO., LTD. China, www.rifeng.com

AALBERTS announces Chief People and Sustainability Officer

Aalberts announces the appointment of Anne-Lize van Dusseldorp as Chief People and Sustainability Officer. She will start on 1 June 2026 and will be part of the Executive Team.



KWD-globalpipe, 28.05.2026. Anne-Lize van Dusseldorp joined Aalberts in 2015 as legal counsel, was promoted to director sustainable entrepreneurship in 2018 and joined the Executive Team in 2023.

As Chief People and Sustainability Officer, Anne-Lize will be responsible for the People & Culture and Sustainability strategy as per our 'thrive 2030' objectives, ensuring we further invest in a future-proof workforce and deliver on our sustainable commitments.

"I am very pleased that Anne-Lize is taking the role of Chief People and Sustainability Officer. With her extensive knowledge of Aalberts' culture, her value-based leadership and her strong environmental, social and governance mindset, she will play a key role in the next growth and development phase of Aalberts", said Stéphane Simonetta, CEO.

Contact: Aalberts N.V., The Netherlands, www.aalberts.com



Anne-Lize van Dusseldorp will be based in our head office in Utrecht, the Netherlands. © Aalberts

ALIAxis appoints Peter Van Bylen to the Executive Committee as EMEA EVP

Aliaxis, a global leader in fluid management solutions that enable access to water and energy, today announced the appointment of Peter Van Bylen as Executive Vice President (EVP) EMEA and member of the Executive Committee, effective 1 June 2026.



KWD-globalpipe, 28.05.2026. Peter Van Bylen is an experienced and respected leader throughout Aliaxis. During his 13 years with the company, he has built a strong reputation as a strategic, people-focused and results-driven leader, with deep knowledge of the business and its markets.

Managing Director, Thierry Vanlancker comments: “Peter has a strong strategic mindset, knows our business extremely well, and leads by listening carefully to our customers and our people. His ability to connect teams, drive transformation and execute with discipline will be critical as we continue to strengthen our EMEA strategy.”



Peter Van Bylen ©

Peter Van Bylen, EVP EMEA, comments on becoming EVP EMEA: “I am excited to take on the role of Executive Vice President EMEA and to join the Executive Committee at Aliaxis. Having been part of the Group for many years, I am continuously inspired by the talent, dedication and drive of our people. I look forward to working closely with our leadership team and colleagues across the region to strengthen collaboration, deliver on our transformation priorities and continue building a high-performing, customer-focused organization.”

Contact: Aliaxis Group SA, Belgium, www.aliaxis.com / [Full press release](#)

ADS: Fiscal 2026 net sales increased 5%; fiscal year ended March 31

Scott Barbour, President and Chief Executive Officer of ADS commented, "In Fiscal 2026, net sales increased 5% as we executed our differentiated growth strategy to drive above market performance through material conversion, product innovation and acquisitions in the stormwater and wastewater markets."



KWD-globalpipe, 28.05.2026. "Turning to Fiscal 2027, we are cautious on the demand outlook due to the geopolitical uncertainty, elevated interest rates and resulting economic uncertainty. Non-residential construction activity continues to benefit from large projects, though residential construction activity has slowed. We have good line of sight into our costs, and we are working to offset inflationary pressure on a dollar-for-dollar basis through pricing actions as well as by utilizing our North American leading recycling capabilities to pivot to lower-cost material. We are confident in our ability to grow and increase market share during this period of market uncertainty, supported by our national reach and industry-leading product portfolio, as we focus on growing geographies and segments of the construction market, such as data centers."

New segment reporting

Following the acquisition of the water management business of Norma Group SE, known as National Diversified Sales (NDS), the Company realigned its reportable segments to align with the manner in which the chief operating decision maker assesses performance and makes resource allocation decisions.

ADS operates its business in two distinct reportable segments: "Stormwater" and "Wastewater", which are primarily organized based on products.

- **The Stormwater segment** primarily consists of the former Pipe and International segments, as well as Allied Products & Other.
- **The Wastewater segment** primarily consists of the former Infiltrator segment.

Contact: Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc. (ADS), USA, www.ads-pipe.com / [Full press release](#)

WATTS Water Technologies reports record first quarter 2026 results

Watts Water Technologies delivered a strong start to 2026, with organic growth across all regions and record first quarter net sales – up 21% on a reported basis and 12% organically, operating income, operating margin and EPS.



KWD-globalpipe, 28.05.2026. Chief Executive Officer Robert J. Pagano Jr. said, "We are actively managing through geopolitical and trade-related uncertainties while advancing our strategic priorities. We continue to invest in higher-growth opportunities, including data centers and digital solutions, and are driving productivity through automation to support efficiency and margin performance through the One Watts Performance System.

While we are pleased with our strong performance to start the year, the macro environment remains dynamic. As a result, we are maintaining our full year 2026 outlook. Our proven operating model and execution track record position us well, and supported by a strong balance sheet and solid cash flow generation, we remain focused on disciplined capital allocation and delivering sustainable long-term value."

Regional performance

- **Americas:** Sales increased 23% on a reported basis and 16% organically, primarily driven by favorable pricing and incremental volume from data center growth. Acquisitions contributed 7% to reported growth.
- **Europe:** Sales increased 12% on a reported basis and 1% organically. Reported growth benefited from favorable foreign exchange, which contributed 11% to reported sales growth. Organic growth was primarily driven by favorable pricing, offsetting a slight decline in volume.
- **APMEA:** Sales increased 29% on a reported basis and 3% organically, as growth in China, Australia, and New Zealand offset declines in the Middle East. Acquisitions contributed 19% and favorable foreign exchange contributed 7% to reported sales growth.

Contact: Watts Water Technologies, Inc., USA, www.wattswater.com / [Full press release](#)

WESTLAKE Corporation reports challenging start to 2026 amid market pressure

Westlake Corporation reported a challenging start to the year, with results affected by weaker market conditions and several one-time items. The company said earnings were impacted by a legal settlement related to PVC pipe and fittings in the United States, as well as costs tied to previously announced plant shutdowns and restructuring measures.



KWD-globalpipe, 28.05.2026. Excluding these special items, underlying business performance was stronger than the headline results suggest. Westlake continues to focus on cost-saving initiatives and adjustments to its production network as it responds to ongoing pressure in key chemical and building products markets.

According to Jean-Marc Gilson, Westlake Corporation began to see the first effects of its cost-reduction measures introduced last year. He said margins in the **Performance and Essential Materials (PEM) segment improved** toward the end of the quarter, supported by developments in global energy markets linked to tensions involving Iran.

In the Housing and Infrastructure Products (HIP) segment, Gilson said **demand for pipe and fittings remained solid** due to continued infrastructure spending. Growth in this business was supported in part by projects related to new data centers. However, weaker residential construction activity in North America, higher interest rates and rising building costs continued to weigh on housing-related demand and limited overall sales volume growth in the segment. Lower average selling prices also remained a headwind for HIP performance.

Gilson added that supply disruptions and higher global energy and feedstock costs have recently pushed up prices for PVC resin and polyethylene, while lower North American natural gas costs have provided some relief. According to the company, these market conditions could continue to support margins in the PEM segment over the coming months.

Looking ahead, Westlake expects further earnings improvement as it continues implementing its profitability improvement strategy across both business segments.

Contact: Westlake Corporation, USA, www.westlake.com / [Full press release](#)