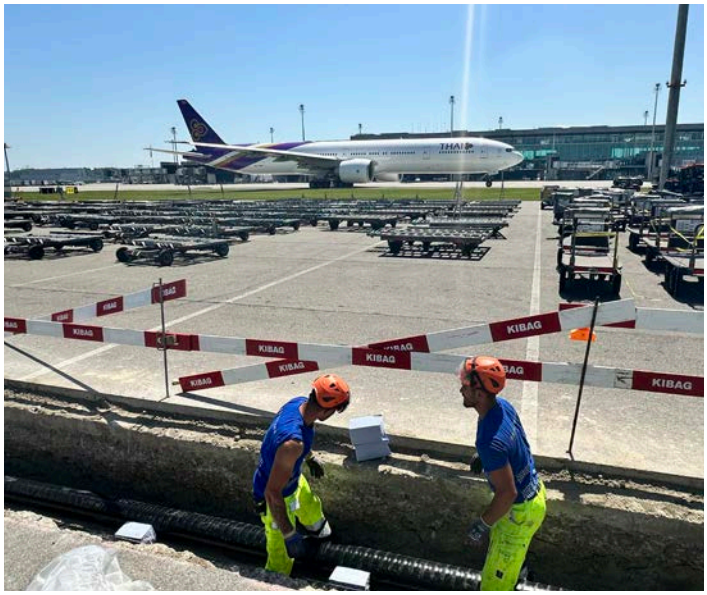
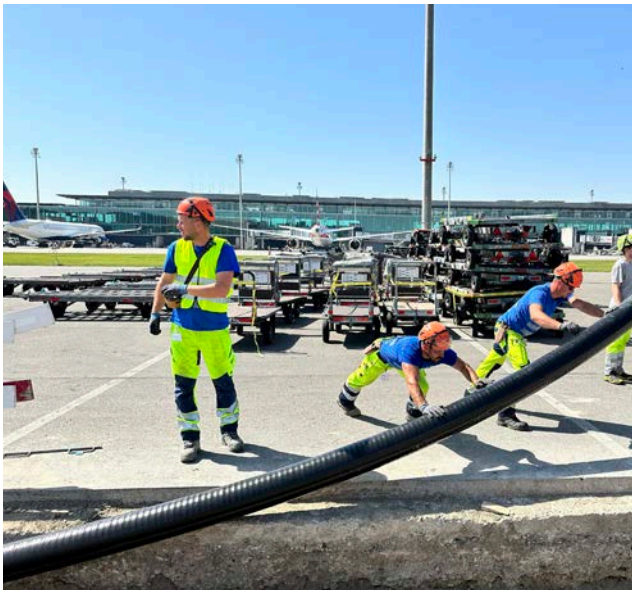
District Heating Project at Zurich Airport, 2026

BRUGG
Pipes

Pioneers in Infrastructure





Project

Zurich Airport is an important transport hub in the heart of Europe. Its hub function is essential for Switzerland's international connectivity. Every day, thousands of employees and complex technical infrastructures ensure smooth operations.

To secure the long-term heat supply on the airport premises, a new district heating pipeline was installed between buildings M1 and M2 on the airside of the airport. The new pipeline ensures the reliable heat supply of the M2 building complex. Among other facilities, it houses maintenance and logistics facilities that carry out repair and service work on aircraft and ground handling vehicles.

For this demanding project, BRUGG Pipes supplied and installed a combined solution consisting of conventional PREMANT district heating pipe systems and the flexible metallic CASAFLEX district heating pipe system. The work was carried out during ongoing flight operations and in compliance with the strict safety and access regulations of Zurich Airport.

Execution

Special Requirements in a High-Security Area

The new district heating pipeline connects the two airport buildings M1 and M2 and runs partly through an existing utility tunnel. The project planning alone placed high demands on all parties involved. Access to the security area required extensive approvals, registrations, and close coordination with the airport operator.

The starting point of the project was an existing connecting pipeline. As the existing pipeline was installed underground beneath concrete traffic areas of the airport, a conventional replacement would have required extensive civil engineering work as well as significant restrictions to airport operations.

To minimise the intervention, an existing walkable utility tunnel was used. This made it possible to pull in and install the new pipelines during ongoing flight operations.

Thanks to the high flexibility of CASAFLEX, changes in direction, stair landings, and differences in elevation within the tunnel could also be overcome without the need for complex special constructions.

The installation of the flexible pipelines was carried out within closely coordinated time windows. The combination of ongoing flight operations, limited space, and the highest safety requirements made this project an exceptional challenge.

Flexible Pipe System for a Demanding Installation

Two CASAFLEX DN100 pipelines, each with a length of 78 metres, together with PREMANT DN100 pipe systems, were installed. Thanks to the high flexibility of CASAFLEX and the delivery of the complete pipe lengths on drums, the pipelines could be routed through the existing infrastructure within a very short time, reducing the installation time to a minimum.

Among the equipment used for the installation were a BRUGG cable winch and a truck with a roll-off device. Support was provided by the team from Welti-Furrer. In addition to supplying, installing, and reinsulating the pipe systems, BRUGG Pipes also provided technical support during the planning and engineering phases together with the project partners AWIAG Andy Wickart Planung and E3 HLK AG.

Successful Cooperation

The end customer of the project was Flughafen Zürich AG. Together with the planning and execution partners involved, the new district heating connection was successfully completed on schedule and in full compliance with all safety requirements.

By combining rigid PREMANT district heating pipe systems with the flexible metallic CASAFLEX pipe system, the project was completed within a very short period of time. At the same time, a sustainable and future-proof heat supply for a key building complex within the airport's security area was ensured.

BRUGG Pipes would like to thank Airport Zurich AG for the trust placed in us, as well as our project partners E3 HLK AG, AWIAG Andy Wickart Planung, and Welti-Furrer for their cooperative partnership in the successful implementation of this exceptional infrastructure project.