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SIKA AG Zugerstrasse 50
6341 Baar, Switzerland
www.sika.com

CONTACT Dominik Slappnig
Corporate Communications and
Investor Relations
TELEPHONE +41 58 436 68 21
E-MAIL slappnig.dominik@ch.sika.com

SIKA COMMENCES CONCRETE REINFORCING FIBER PRODUCTION FOR REGION EMEA

Sika has started producing high-performance concrete reinforcing fibers for clients in the Europe, Middle East and Africa region at its manufacturing facility in Troisdorf, Germany, where a new production line has been commissioned. Made of a thermoplastic material (polypropylene), the fibers are used to increase the structural strength of concrete in highly demanding applications. With this new production line, Sika is continuing to expand its range of concrete additives and positioning itself as an innovative single-source supplier to the construction industry.

The global market volume of steel and synthetic fibers used in concrete applications is estimated at approximately CHF 800 million, with synthetic fibers recording the biggest growth. Macro fibers such as Sika's newly developed product line SikaFiber® Force -60 are mainly used instead of steel reinforcements for strengthening concrete or shotcreted structures with demanding performance requirements. Typical areas of use include tunneling, mining, precast concrete elements and industrial floors, as well as foundations and ground slabs. The new fibers not only improve the safety, durability and serviceability of concrete and enhance its performance, but also increase the efficiency of the construction process as they are added to the ready-mixed concrete during mixing.

Sika CEO Paul Schuler: "With our latest innovation, synthetic macro fibers, we want to offer customers new technologies in the area of structural reinforcement. We are carrying out a targeted investment in the build-up of production in the EMEA region, and are confident that these high-performance products have significant growth potential."

SIKA CORPORATE PROFILE

Sika is a specialty chemicals company with a leading position in the development and production of systems and products for bonding, sealing, damping, reinforcing and protection in the building sector and automotive industry. Sika has subsidiaries in 99 countries around the world and

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manufactures in over 190 factories. Its more than 17,000 employees generated annual sales of CHF 5.75 billion in 2016.