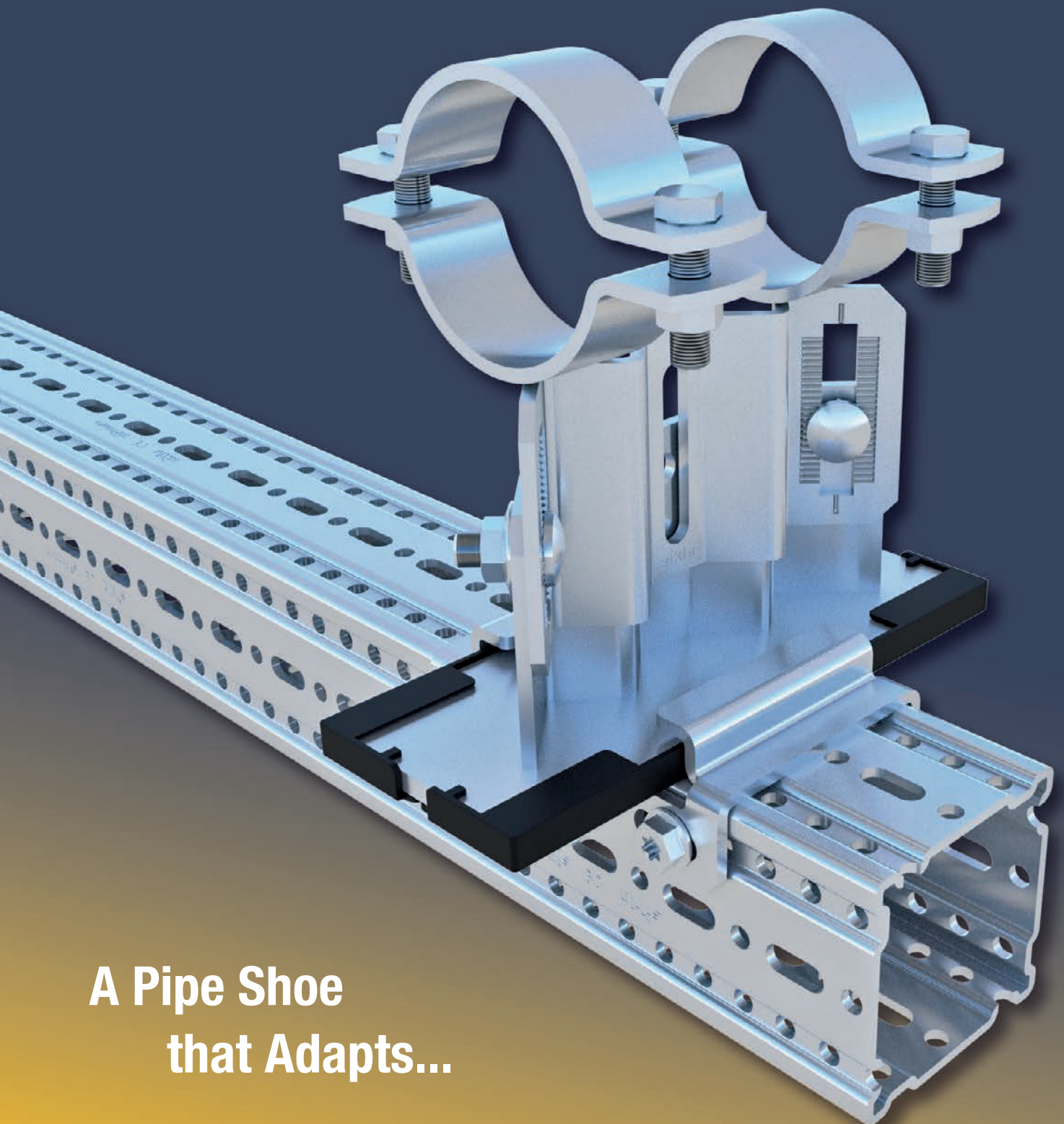


sikla

# THE MAGAZINE

ISSUE 2022/23



**A Pipe Shoe  
that Adapts...**

## Branch in Northern Ireland

In December 2021, Sikla UK opened a warehouse in the Belfast harbour estate. Branch Manager Chris Yarnall and his team now work from state-of-the-art offices. The warehouse accommodates the full range of siFramo, Simotec pipe shoes in all standard dimensions and a small range of Siconnect, meeting the demands of our customers on the Island of Ireland. There is a fully automated bandsaw as part of a pre-assembly area. Customers in both NI and ROI can now enjoy improved customer service, i.e. same day deliveries, just a 2h drive to Dublin.



## Sikla Hispania Celebrates its 10th Anniversary

The Sikla Hispania team was lucky enough to experience a very special weekend in Seville as part of the company's 10th anniversary celebrations. Employees and their partners were joined by the company's owners.



### Innovation Award for siFramo in its Anniversary Year

Sikla Hispania was presented with an innovation award for siFramo as part of the CBRE Global Workplace Solutions EMEA's "Supplier Partner Innovation Challenge 2022". The team won in the "Technology" category for the best innovative idea.



## Children's Day at Sikla Polska

Come and see where mum and dad work. Employee's kids were invited to spend an exciting, action-packed day on the new premises. They could touch and look at everything, drive on a pallet truck or take a seat in the Managing Director's chair. The day was full of exciting events and lots of fun for young and old.



## Dear Readers,

Sikla is celebrating its 55th birthday this year. A lot is changing and adapting, including the organisational structure of the Group. In my interview with the company owners Dieter and Reiner Klauß, you can read about how internal responsibilities are going to be redistributed and what we will be focussing on in the future.

Digitalisation in the construction industry is evolving and we have been supporting our customers in the rollout of BIM projects for many years. Together with our specialists in Germany and in Spain, we have put together the Sikla BIM range of services on pages 8 and 9.

This issue's siFramo Ambassador comes from Switzerland and reports on some spectacular prefabricated riser modules.

An exciting pilot project was also finalised this year which we were lucky enough to be a part of. With our support and assistance, Evonik has launched the first mobile chemical plant based on modular principles.

All in all, we have once again put together a variety of interesting topics and news for you, covering the Sikla world.

I hope you enjoy the read!



Best wishes

Manuela Maurer  
Marketing Communications Manager

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Sikla News

02

New Sikla Group Structure

04

siFramo Ambassador

06

Partner in BIM Projects

08

A Modular Chemical Plant

10

Easier Install with  
One-Screw Technology

11

Simotec Pipe Shoes

12

# The Sikla Group's New Structure

Looking back on 55 years of success, the Holdings' Board will reorganise itself and its subsidiaries from 2023. This comes as a result of significant and international growth in recent years.



Manuela Maurer with  
Reiner and Dieter Klauß

**Reiner, you will be responsible for the management of all global sales organisations and the group's new Finance and Investments division. What do you see as your most important tasks for the future?**

**R. Klauß:** We have always been a company selling directly and we want to continue along this path in the future. We follow the "one face to the customer" principle, which means to us being close to our customers, understanding their requirements and meeting these in the best possible way. When Sikla's name is on the product, then Sikla's spirit is in the product. We have always been successful with this claim and want to export this idea to many other countries. This is why we will synergise all sales activities and focus more intensely on international cooperation and on customer orientation.

**Dieter, from 2023, you will dedicate all your activities to setting up the extended headquarters. Which divisions will be moved there and what is the objective behind this new structure?**

**D. Klauß:** The Group's international orientation requires more centralised service structures. Essentially, this will include the divisions of R+D, Intellectual Property, Quality Management, Procurement, parts of our Controlling, Marketing, HR and IT. We will also have an in-house Logistics Competence Centre. We will provide tools to assist our international branches in developing their markets successfully. None of this happens behind closed doors, but in close cooperation with those responsible on the ground. In this way, we create a more effective and more cohesive corporate culture.

**The Sikla Group has grown significantly in recent years. In April 2022, the new office and warehouse building in Poland was handed over. Are there any further projects in the pipeline?**

**R. Klauß:** In some countries, our existing premises reach their capacity limits. In 2023, we will kick off construction of the new Sikla Austria building in Wels. This is a state-of-the-art logistics centre, to be built on a greenfield, and currently at planning stage. In Schwenningen, Germany, we are planning another new office building, construction starting in 2023. We are actively looking for suitable plots of land in the UK, Spain and Portugal. Such investments will ensure the most efficient supply of goods and services to our customers in the future, as well as high delivery capacity.



Dieter and Reiner Klauß

**Sikla's pioneer image as an innovator of support systems and services is an integral part of the company's history. Can you give us an outlook on some innovations that may shape the future?**

**D. Klauß:** That's an exciting question. Of course, I don't want to reveal everything yet, but this much can be said already: We have adapted the idea of a simple three-dimensional support system to the load range of standard strut channels. Our customers can look forward to seeing what we will present in 2023.

We also believe that digitalisation of buildings will see more progress. Our motivation is to simplify planning systems in a way that BIM modelling can gradually be applied to medium-sized buildings. Standardised processes will make an enormous difference and go far beyond digital planning as we know it.

**Sikla's corporate culture has always been characterised by mutual respect. What other values are particularly important to you in your day-to-day work?**

**R. Klauß:** We cultivate a management style that leaves plenty of room for new ideas. This is to unleash the creativity of our employees in the best possible way. With flat hierarchies and a focus on results, we create opportunities for independent and motivating working practices. We exchange ideas regularly and communicate openly with all employees and business partners. This transparent style of communication is of utmost importance to us. Actually, I think it differentiates us from many other companies.

We also aim for profitability to maintain our independence and autonomy. Investment into modern workplaces, above-average payment packages and a fair and sustainable production of our products are key. We also feel socially responsible, contribute to supporting relevant social projects and help people in need.

**The ecological transformation of our global economy has begun. How important is sustainability within the company's future orientation?**

**D. Klauß:** The sustainable use of resources has been anchored in our corporate mission since 2009. Many product developments we saw in recent years have this in their DNA already. We have completely repositioned sustainability as part of our Group strategy. Our targets are both comprehensible and measurable. By 2030, we aim to achieve carbon neutrality across all scopes based on the Greenhouse Gas Protocol (CHGP). Individual projects and milestones are in the planning, as are the necessary certifications. However, we keep reviewing the term sustainability. This involves us focusing on working conditions and taking responsibility for what happens in our supply chain.

**Last but not least, a curious question. What do you do outside the Sikla world when you need to relax?**

**R. Klauß:** My family is of course at the centre of everything. We actively plan our time together, we do enjoy travelling and spend a lot of time outside in nature. It is often the simple things that make life worth living and these don't have to be far away, or cost a lot. Cycling and running are my favourites and I can do this anywhere in the world.

**D. Klauß:** The family means a lot to me too. I always look forward to seeing our grandchildren and try spending as much time as possible with them. We travel a lot and like immersing ourselves in foreign cultures. For unwinding, I ride my racing bike as well as my mountain bike and in winter it's ski touring or cross-country skiing. Otherwise, I do like cooking and enjoy social gatherings.

# siFramo Impressing Our Clients



PARK INNOVAARE is an innovation campus in Villigen (Switzerland) and its service riser modules got designed and built with siFramo modular steel.



*Interview with  
Bernd Steidinger  
Managing Director at  
K+S Systeme GmbH*

PARK INNOVAARE (PSI) is a research-orientated innovation campus. Here, companies from the national and international science community come together: PSI is the largest research institute in Switzerland in the fields of natural sciences and engineering.

The energy consumption for heating and cooling the 38,000 m<sup>2</sup> campus is largely covered by renewables.

Sikla (Schweiz) AG received the order for the entire M+E support systems. The top floor of the building complex was built from timber by ERNE Holzbau AG. Those involved in the project faced the challenge of an ambitious construction programme, with limited time available to bring the riser modules in. Equipped with floor grating, a safety level could be achieved that made any further fall protection systems for working inside the riser cores redundant. Each floor became immediately accessible upon reception of the module.

Based on the initial detailing of a design prototype by Sikla, including structural calculation, K+S System GmbH took over and finalised all modules, including prefabrication and installation. Sikla took ownership of customised cutting, ensuring trouble-free prefabrication.

In total 36 modules, of over 3 tonnes weight each, were completed. Subsequently, they got stacked inside the riser and interconnected. Three modules constitute 27 metres height.

### Why did you decide to use siFramo?

siFramo is a robust system, highly flexible and therefore ideal for pre-assembly and for unexpected changes in particular. The sections can be used with various components for almost any application and are extremely easy to put together. We were also impressed by the simplicity of working with one type of screw only.

### Did you actually need adjustment on site?

Absolutely. There were clashes with some pipework that had to be retrofitted, requiring some of the siFramo sections to be removed or relocated. Normally this puts us on a backfooting but this time...cut section to length, plug the component inside and apply some screws. It really couldn't be easier!

### Apparently there was a merciless time table to get those 36 modules into the riser cores. Did you end up delivering on this?

In the end it was the precise detailing and factory-based fabrication that saved us. Yes, the module installation went smoothly and on time. We used a tower crane to lower the modules into the riser and to position them correctly. Stacking did not cause any trouble either since the joints were very well prepared. All we had to do was connecting them with self-forming screws.

### What was the feedback from your project team on this siFramo experiment?

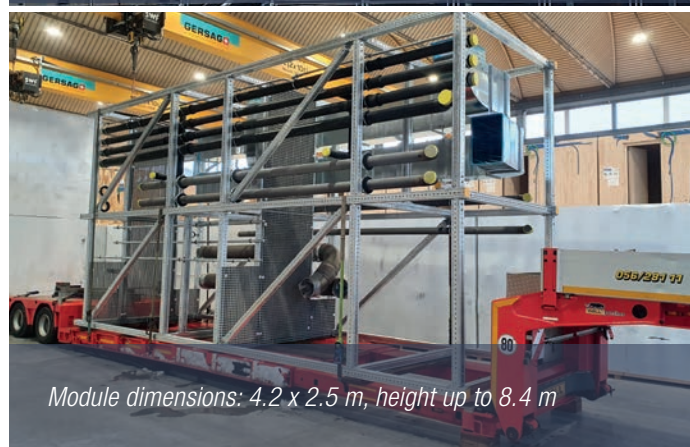
They were all really impressed and taken by surprise how fast we could work with this system. In a finished riser core with one access point per floor only, it cannot be valued high enough when there is no more but a splice to be connected. Just the fact that we needed no further fall protection equipment saved us an enormous amount of time.

### Now, with the benefit of hindsight, would you have done anything differently? Are you considering a follow-up project?

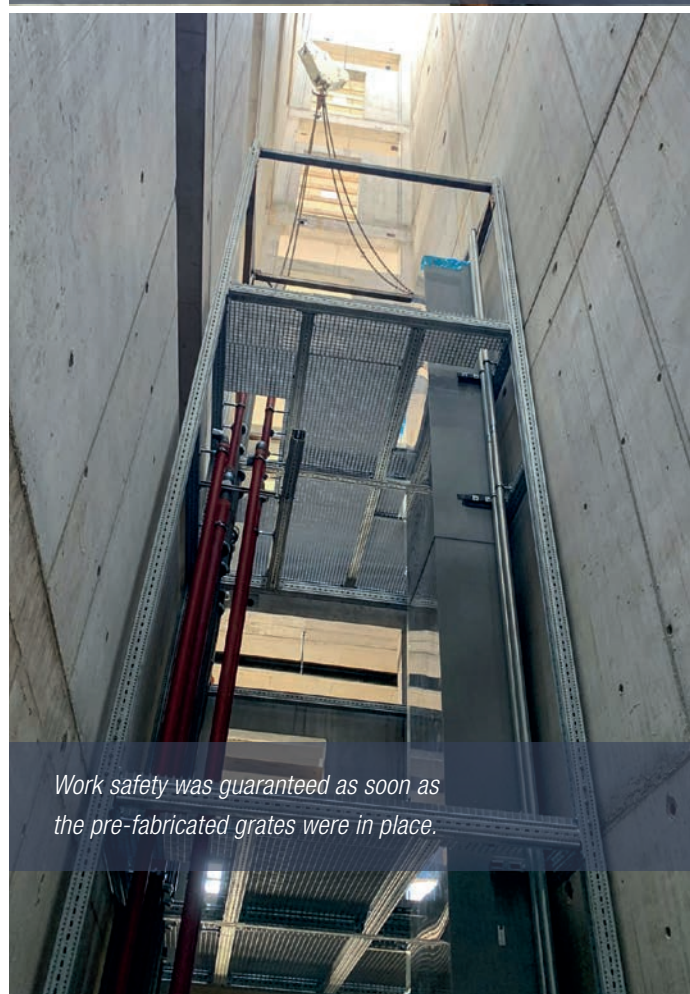
Since everything went so well, I would do it again and in exactly the same way. This concerns the entire process: planning, full pre-assembly and installation. The cooperation with Sikla's team worked really well and we got any support we could possibly need.



*A crane was used to transport the modules into the building through the openings.*



*Module dimensions: 4.2 x 2.5 m, height up to 8.4 m*



*Work safety was guaranteed as soon as the pre-fabricated grates were in place.*

## Sikla – Partner in BIM Projects

In recent years we have supplied BIM services to a number of international Building Services projects.

Implementing a project using BIM working methods means working together with all project stakeholders in a collaborative environment. In order to improve the quality of planning and communication within the BIM project, the 3D technical model with all required information and attributes is used as the essential basis. The 3D master model is created by merging all 3D technical models. The master model can also be used for various analysis purposes, e.g. for cost planning and scheduling. However, the benefits of the master model, also known as the digital twin, go beyond the planning and rollout phase and also offer added value during the operation, conversion and decommissioning phases.

We accompany our customers from conceptual planning through all following stages, up to personal support on site. Sikla offers customised BIM services, thus assisting in guaranteeing faster and more economical project execution.

### Conceptual Design

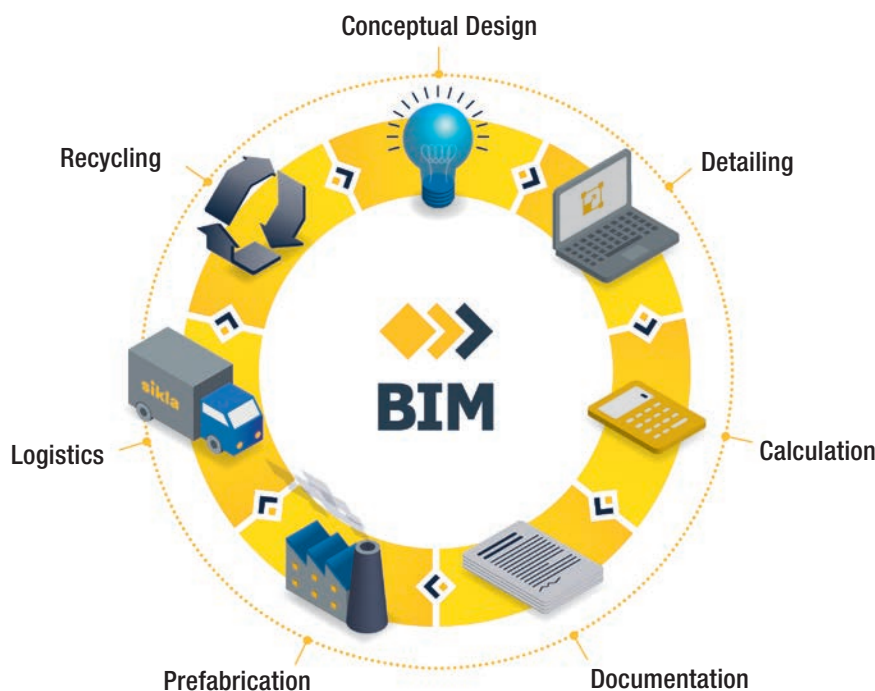
At this stage we advise our customers on the appropriate M+E support solutions and promote the benefits of multi-service bracketry design. Based on agreed conditions, we offer our BIM services customised to the specific project.

### Detailing

At this stage we detail our solutions within the 3D model “Fixings & Supports”. The design selections and concepts are based on project conditions, customer requirements and Sikla’s competence on this subject. The 3D model is continuously screened on its planning quality, depth of information and the geometric detail. Where required, supports are being structurally calculated.

Sikla’s tool is a SiCAD4Revit plugin. Part-by-part planning is supported by an add-on module customised to Autodesk Revit. There is a degree of artificial intelligence to simplify and speed up the design of individual supports. To ensure smooth operation, simplified, low-data geometric blocks embody the Sikla components in SiCAD4Revit. The automatic derivation of shop-detailed drawings, including BOM, delivers an additional benefit when putting projects out for tender.

Sikla BIM Project Cycle







*Sikla Hispania can derive a film, using LUMION 3D software, which allows their clients to virtually walk through the systems previously planned in Revit.*

### Project Execution

Detailed BIM integration of supports as described above is key to trouble-free M+E execution. Each project area's coding is linked with the required supports, allowing Sikla dedicated site deliveries. Flat-packed or fully assembled supports reduce on-site labour requirements. Deliveries are labelled for on-site traceability. If required, containerised consignment stock for spare parts and consumables can be provided. It goes without saying that installation training and site visits for troubleshooting are an integral part of our service.

### Revamp

The 3D technical model's utilisation does not end after the project has been handed over. Buildings don't last forever and before decommissioning there may be several revamp projects. The 3D model aids these purposes too. The Sikla product's quality reduces maintenance during operation. All our M+E support systems are compatible with one another and can be easily mothballed for later reuse. With component details integrated in the technical model, pre-analysis prior to decommissioning enables effective recycling. These are advantages that significantly contribute to a responsible management of resources during all stages of a building's life time.

*From the perspective of assessing technical and financial viability, M+E support concepts must be integrated into BIM projects at an early stage. Both material and execution costs can be reduced and a suitable logistical concept can be developed at the right time.*



**Carlos Serrano**

BIM Manager | Sikla Hispania

>> We share our BIM know-how with interested clients and consultants in webinars and offer training in the use of our SiCAD4Revit plugin. The latest webinar schedules are published on LinkedIn. <<



**Dr. Robert Skorupski**

Business Development Manager BIM  
Sikla Germany

>> The relevance of BIM gains momentum and Sikla continuously invests to be up to speed. This is to maximise added value for our customers as a niche specialist. <<

# A Modular Chemical Plant

A long-standing cooperation with Evonik allowed Sikla to participate in the pilot project of a mobile chemical plant. This is a story about concept, design and implementation of modular frames from siFramo.

Evonik is on a mission to reduce downtimes. For this reason, mobile chemical plants are increasingly considered to create extra capacity. Such mobile systems also assist in changing existing systems quickly and efficiently.

Sikla supported the entire design process, using its expertise to ensure a timely market launch. The chemical plant of this pilot project has a vertical design structure. All relevant technical and structural data, such as filled weight, lifting forces, tilting moment, tensile loads, dynamic loads and the load distribution, have been designed by Sikla Engineers. This included stress calculations for loading, transportation and maneuvering.

One challenge was to design the frame based on sea container dimensions and on a historic concept. Using siFramo, Evonik could benefit from high load bearing at low self-weight, whilst speeding up the installation process by One-Screw Technology (see next page). The box section design also enables connections in all directions simultaneously. During planning and installation, no beam flanges restrict the usability of the steel sections. The modularity of the frame design eventually led to an erection period of just a few days. siFramo products are hot-dip galvanised and comply with the corrosion protection class 'C4 long'.

siFramo guarantees CE conformity and this was a decisive factor to select our system. A further benefit is the self-weight reduction of up to 60% compared to traditional steel. From the perspective of maneuverability it is essential. Besides time saving- and safety aspects, price also plays an important role. This even more in light of the current steel price volatility.



*siFramo connections allow changes to be made at any time*



*Maneuverability was a key aspect during implementation*



## **Beate Görtz**

Global Key Account Manager  
Process Industry

**>>** *These two frame structures were transported from Hanau to Antwerp where they were set up on site without any problems. The pilot project was successfully completed. This new frame concept can be made available to other interested clients in the future. <<*



Video on this exciting project

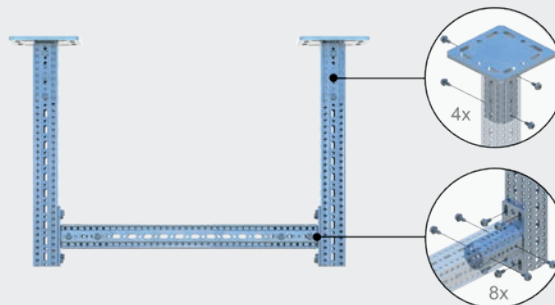
# Easier Install with One-Screw Technology

One-Screw Technology enables the efficient installation with just one type of screw throughout all components, regardless of loads. In partnership with the components' design, frame connections can be made: a) simultaneously in all directions without clashing of screws and b) randomly anywhere on a Beam Section, regardless of hole positions.



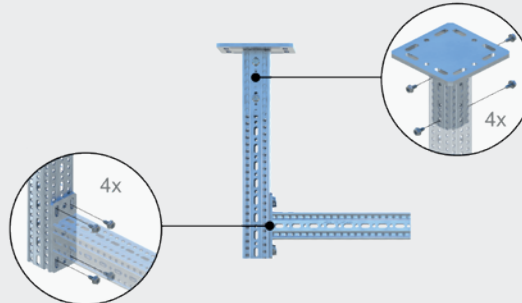
**Minimal effort to finalise connections significantly cuts installation time, compared to both welded steel and conventional through-bolt systems.**

Example: **Inverted Goal Post**  
24 Screw Connections



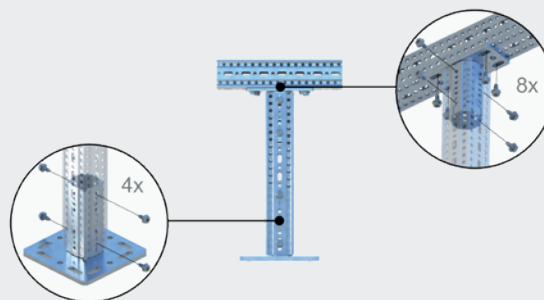
BOM:  
2 x Beam Brackets F  
3 x Beam Section TP F  
2 x End Supports STA F  
**24 x Self-forming Screw FLS F**

Example: **L-Shaped Support**  
8 Screw Connections



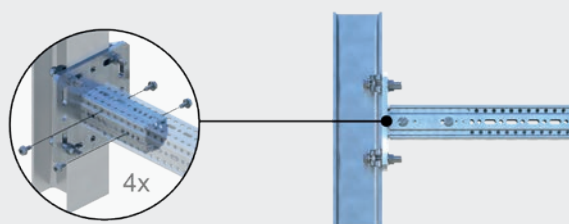
BOM:  
1 x Beam Brackets F  
1 x Beam Section TP F  
1 x Cantilever Bracket AK F  
**8 x Self-forming Screw FLS F**

Example: **T-Shaped Support**  
12 Screw Connections



BOM:  
1 x Beam Bracket F  
2 x Beam Section TP F  
1 x End Support STA F  
**12 x Self-focking Screw FLS F**

Example: **Cantilever Arm**  
4 Screw Connections



BOM:  
1 x Beam Bracket F  
1 x Beam Section TP F  
1 x Assembly Set MS 5P  
**4 x Self-forming Screws FLS F**  
Alternatively without any screws:  
Beam Bracket TKO F

## Pipe Shoes, Adapting to Your Situation

With a gapless Outer Diameter (OD) range from 18 to 630 mm, there is a Simotec pipe shoe for every pipe – insulated or not. Pipes with medium temperatures from as low as -60° to as high as +500 °C can now be supported thanks to the use of premium steels. There are also fully insulated pipe shoes for cold pipes. The sliding plate is made from glass fibre reinforced polyamide, offering excellent sliding properties.

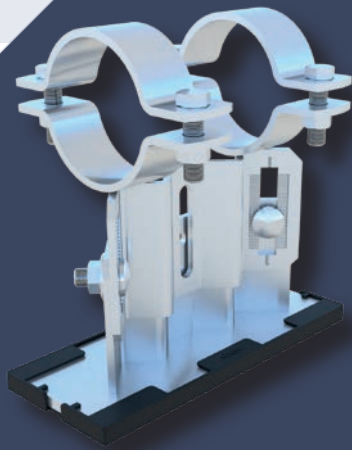
**Compliance:** Simotec pipe shoes, used in combination with siFramo, constitute a fully regulatory-compliant system, comprising both primary and secondary pipe supports. All components have been tested and documented by accredited and independent laboratories.

### Height Adjustment

|        |                  |
|--------|------------------|
| HV 90  | 88.5 to 113.5 mm |
| HV 150 | 116 to 168.5 mm  |
| HV 200 | 171 to 223.5 mm  |

### Temperature Ranges

|        |                 |
|--------|-----------------|
| Normal | -20 to +300 °C  |
| High   | +300 to +500 °C |
| Low    | -60 to -20 °C   |

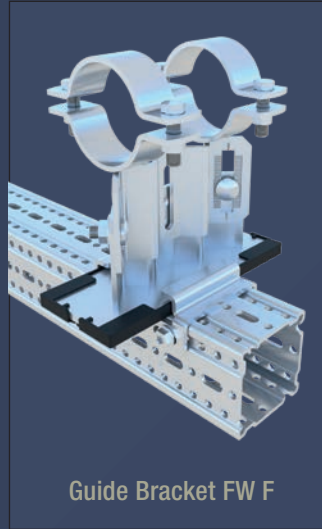


### Flexibility Thanks to Modularity

Simotec pipe shoes increase the efficiency of inventory management. Depending on their combination with accessories, the same pipe shoe can be used in many different ways: as a skid, a pipe guide or a fixed point, on siFramo modular steel or directly on structural steel. In addition, integrated height adjustment enables the adaptation of the pipe shoe to site conditions – even when already installed.

On siFramo structures, a pipe shoe can function variably when using:

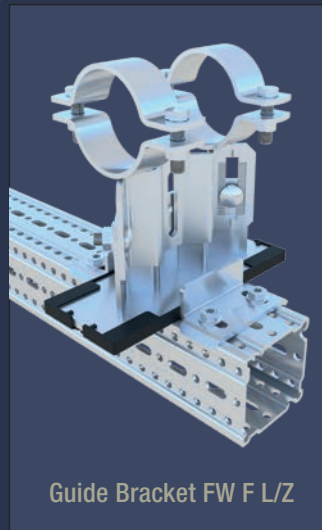
Further accessories enable different functionalities on existing steel structures:



Guide Bracket FW F



Guide Set FS



Guide Bracket FW F L/Z



Fixed Point Set XS



Fixed Point Bracket XW F



Guide Set FS Z