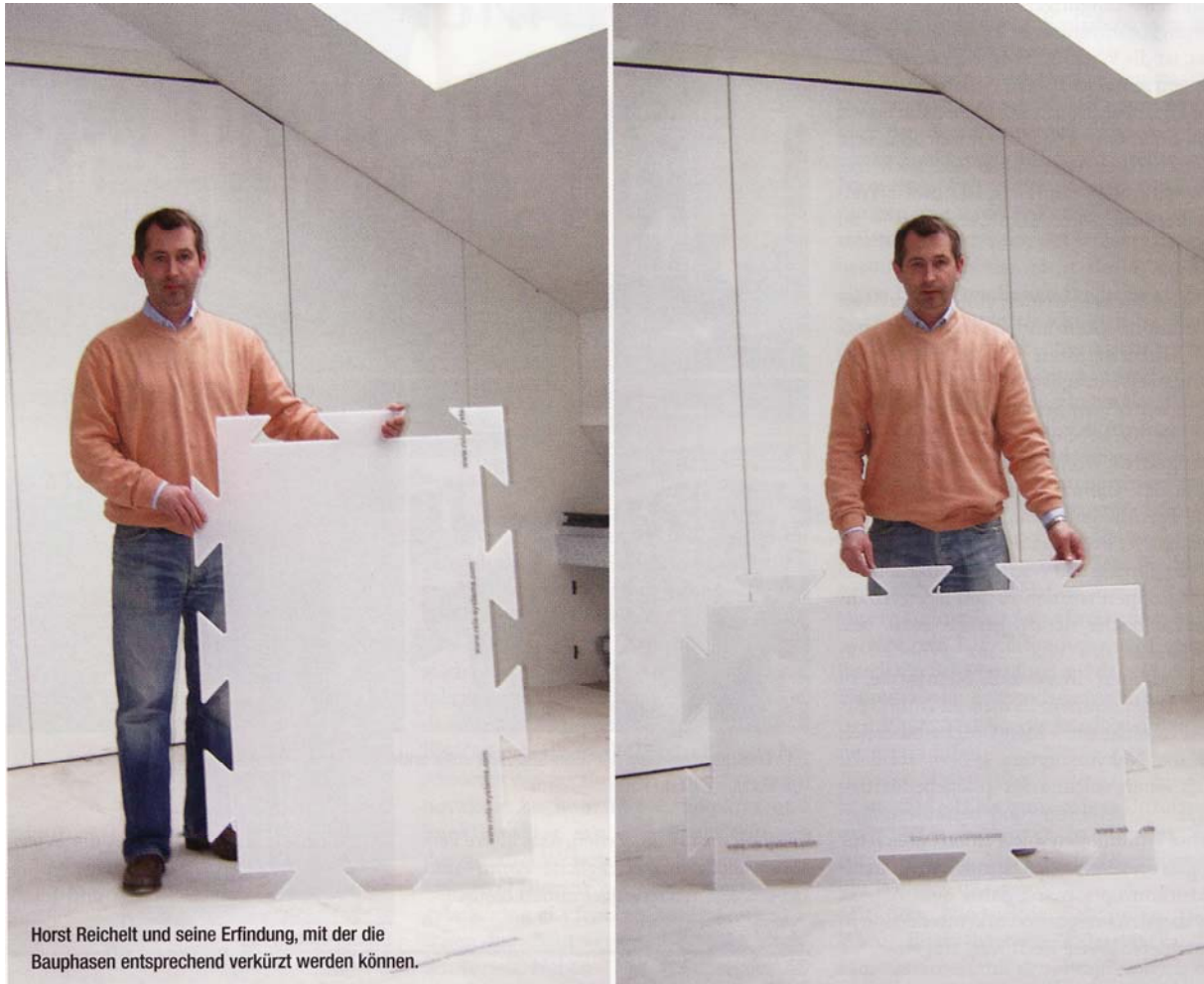


A Board Modifies Construction Management



Horst Reichelt revolutionizes construction management on construction sites with a registered floor protection system

You have developed a floor protection board – what kind of board is it?

Reichelt: It is a polypropylene board with 3.5 – 4.5mm. The material's weight is only one kilogramme per m² which is far less than conventional hardboards and it can therefore easily be transported and dovetailed. Furthermore, the boards are, although they are so thin, constructed in a way that it can carry extreme loads and protect the floor below perfectly.

The inevitable question then is: What gave you the idea in the first place?

The company RELE (www.rele.at) is normally laying floors and we often experienced at construction sites that the floors were laid and that they then were affected and even damaged.

Thus, an efficient protection system had to be found. After having searched for the ideal and most economic material, I came across the PP-hollow plate, which, however, had not been adapted to such operational demands

After many tests we had finally found the necessary grammage, thickness and compound.

Then it was time to have the invention patented in Geneva to be able to introduce it to the market. Architects and builders were enthusiastic so that already many construction sites use our system.

What does this innovation mean for the operation of a building project in detail?

Normally, heavy and bulky soft and hardboards are used on the floor even has to be laid after everything else has been finished – which has negative effects on the construction management.

And this is the advantage: Construction phases can be shortened and handled more flexible. Floor layers can be made quicker and earlier and without considering the completion of the interior, as the floors are protected.

The boards also have many environmental advantages...

There are various advantages, just let me mention a few: They are much lighter and thus the transport costs are lower compared to other boards. They can be re-used 10 times and can easily be cleaned and when they are broken, various disposal companies pick them up for recycling. This means, waste disposal is not required. Can you imagine how many containers you would need to dispose of 20,000 m²! Normally that is a large amount.

How many m² do you lay per year?

Annually about 100,000 m² in Austria, but this year it will be 150,000 to 200,000 m², in Europe about 1 mill m².

You also export the boards?

Yes, we have started a second company: RELE International, only responsible for our export business, which I expect to expand next year.

Didn't you consider making the boards larger when covering such large areas, especially as they are not really heavy?

This would of course have been a possibility, but the basic for the size is the size of a pallet which is 80x120.



If I were a building company: Do I buy the boards?

You can of course buy them, but normally you rent them. We deliver them, lay the floors and pick them up in the end.

Is this product only available to key account customers?

At the moment, yes. There will soon be a version for private persons. They can then also use the boards for covering, they can easily be cleaned and re-used. The difference is that the boards only have 3.5mm. We are still in negotiations but the boards will soon be available in a do-it-yourself store.

Could you name some reference projects?

Palais Coburg with 11,000 m², Le Meridien Hotel, SMZ Ost hospital, Twin Towers, Ares Tower, Floridotower, the Ministry of Finances or Vienna Fair with 29,000 m².

“Many construction projects have been operated successfully and more effectively with our patent-registered system”

Horst Reichelt, RELE Austria



In Germany among others the German Bank in Frankfurt with 28,000 m² and Allianz Insurances with 14,000 m².

Do you co-operate with companies?

Yes, we have framework agreements with construction companies as for example Strabag or Porr and Pittel & Brausewetter or Mörtingerbau. These companies regularly use the boards on their construction sites.

Will there be further innovations?

Yes, for example the boards for staircases. At the moment we have protected 1000 steps of staircases for Pittel & Brausewetter in the Audit Court. We are still working on improving these protection boards for staircases, as they are becoming more and more popular.

Do you also lay floors?

This is another field where we are going to expand. At the moment we can offer a complete floor programme: laying, protecting and cleaning.