

Only the best for "Europe's best drinking water"

Linz's water supply puts its trust in ductile cast iron pipes

At an international water tasting held during the European Union's Green Week in Brussels in the summer of 2003, Linz's drinking water was chosen as "Europe's best drinking water". Via the waterworks, the drinking water of Linz is extracted from the flow of groundwater under the Welser Heide plain and from the flow of groundwater taking place parallel to the Danube in the Eferdinger basin to the north and in the Urfahrner basin. The quality of this water is outstandingly good, so much so that no additional treatment is needed. The drinking water is passed straight on to the consumer.

Environmental protection brings an increase in quality

For more than 100 years, the Linz waterworks in the city on the Danube have been seeing to the efficient operation of the water supply systems and ensuring that superb drinking water flows from Linz taps. Since 1993, LINZ AG, the company operating the waterworks, has been running a program of environmental care on the land it owns in the water protection areas. This includes the planting of copses of trees appropriate to the locations to allow as nearly natural a state as possible to be achieved. The reintroduction of species of plants, animals and birds driven out in the past is being helped by steps such as the setting up of nesting boxes. These measures benefit not only the quality of the water but also the environment.

Some 400,000 people in this capital of the state of Upper Austria and in 23 surrounding municipalities are the beneficiaries of this responsible water management.



There are thorough quality controls on the resource and these include the constant care given to the network of pipes, which is more than 1,300 kilometres long and is fed from six waterworks (Scharlinz, Goldwörth, Plesching, Fischdorf, Heilham and Haid).

TRM as a reliable partner

Quality is a primary concern, which is why LINZ AG also attaches very great importance to the material of the pipes. This is the reason for its partnership of more than 60 years with Tiroler Röhren- und Metallwerke AG.

When parts of the pipe network are being replaced and new supply pipes are being installed, the people responsible for the water supply in Austria's third largest city put their trust exclusively in pipelines of ductile cast iron with a PUR TOP coating and easily assembled BLS® / VRS-T® joints. The PUR TOP coating, a development by Tiroler Röhren- und Metallwerke AG, is a polyurethane coating of increased thickness (420 μ), with an additional impact-protection strip wound on top. PUR TOP pipes are used mainly in corrosive soils.

The oldest pipes of grey cast iron in Linz have been in use since 1893. For safety reasons, these old pieces of piping are being replaced section by section.

A key part of the Linz water supply system was renovated for this reason in the autumn of 2008. The old DN 500 and DN 400 pipes of grey cast iron were replaced for a length of around 1000 metres in the section running to the Gugl high-level service reservoir. The preliminary planning had to



be very exact because this area of the city is very steep in places and the aim was for the laying work to be completed in as short as time as possible to minimize any problems to the population and interference with traffic in the densely built-up area. Thanks to the decades of experience that Hubert Traunsteiner (Operations Manager at the Water Department) has had and the excellent collaboration with TRM's Applications Engineering Division, the project was completed in a laying time of only four months despite the difficult terrain.

"We are very happy with the way that all the laying work was handled and in line with our resolve to set the very highest quality standards for the pipe material we made the right decision, namely to opt for TRM's ductile cast iron pipes. The BLS® / VRS-T® joint system not only proved very "laying-friendly" but will also ensure the sustained long-term safety of our drinking water supply", was how Hubert Traunsteiner summed things up on the successful completion of the renovation work.



Linz – European Capital of Culture 2009

For a long time Linz was considered the ugly duckling struggling to keep up with its beautiful big sisters Salzburg and Vienna. Its name was only known to many non-Austrians because of the celebrated Linzer torte. Yet this stern-featured beauty on the Danube has not only blossomed on the outside but has also set out to make culture a real part of its existence. Today the city is no longer just the name of the cake made with jam and short pastry but a little Eldorado for the aficionados of culture – and not just from Austria. The city has had a difficult journey and the culture builders who wanted to establish Linz as a modern city had to contend with repeated cases of internal resistance. The population for example were only too ready to call the Lentos Museum of Art (see the photo above), a spectacular building in the shape of a bridge on the banks of the Danube which was opened in May 2003, a "shoebox". Guests from all over the world come to "Ars Electronica", the festival of media art which every year focuses on issues in the field of social policy, but there were only a few, young, visitors from Linz. Even in his day the poet Stefan Zweig quipped: "Linz rhymes with province and provincial it is". And that is why the one thing above all others that the city would like to achieve in 2009, its year as the Capital of Culture, is – more internationality.

But it would be unjust to the city to consider it only from one point of view. As one of Austria's largest industrial metropolises, Linz has more jobs than inhabitants and the region is close to a state of full employment. Environmental steps have been taken and requirements laid down for the industrial companies to improve the quality of the air to allow the city to shed its problematic environmental image. Today, the "steel town" counts as one of Austria's cleanest cities, where the quality of life is high and there is an awareness of itself as a technology-based and knowledge-based industrial city that takes culture and the environment just as seriously.

More info at: www.linz09.at