

PRESS RELEASE

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Three quarters of a century of PCI success story

PCI Augsburg GmbH Celebrates 75th Anniversary

Augsburg, 12.03.2025 – This year, PCI Augsburg GmbH is celebrating its 75th anniversary. Founded in 1950 as Poly-Chemie-Ingenieurgesellschaft mbH, the former two-man business has grown into one of the leading manufacturers of construction chemical products in the DACH region, driven by numerous innovations. As part of Sika in Germany, the company continues to build on its success story.

The company made its market breakthrough in 1951 with the groundbreaking development of "Beton-Emulsion," a product that improved the adhesive properties of cement-based mortars. The founders, engineer Karl Strehle from Augsburg and businessman Hans W. Schulz from Frankfurt, introduced the mortar adhesion additive at the perfect time for Germany's post-war economic boom. By 1954, the product accounted for approximately 75% of the company's total revenue. Today, this product is still available under the name PCI Emulsion.

Innovative products such as the PCI FT Klebemörtel introduced in 1959, the first cement-bound tile adhesive for thin-bed laying, made the company a pioneer in the industry in the decades that followed. By 1981, the company secured market leadership in German-speaking countries for tile laying materials with the launch of the first powdered specialty tile adhesive. Today, PCI Flexmörtel has become a generic term for an entire product category.

PCI introduced sustainable products as early as the 1970s. In 1974, PCI Gisogrund became the first solvent-free synthetic resin primer for gypsum substrates. Today, 93% of PCI products are solvent-free, and about 82% are classified as very low-emission, carrying the EC1 or EC1 PLUS seal from GEV-EMICODE.

Further innovations in sustainability included nanotechnology and lightweight mortar products such as PCI Nanolight. The addition of recycled glass in the Flexmörtel production reduces material consumption and CO₂ emissions. Its lightweight properties also cut transportation-related CO₂ emissions by up to 33% per square meter of installed tiles compared to standard tile adhesives. In 2003, PCI Nanolight received the EC1 PLUS environmental seal for very low-emission products.

Another innovation, PCI Durapox Premium Multicolor, became the first industry-wide grout available in hundreds of colors to match any tile, complemented by the PCI Colorcatch Nano digital color reader for professional consultations. PCI Durapox Premium / PCI Durapox Premium Multicolor was named "Best Product of the Year 2019" by the internationally recognized PLUS X AWARD.

A Changing Company History Leads to a New Home at Sika

Since the late 1970s, PCI was fully owned by SKW Trostberg AG, which later became part of Degussa's Construction Chemicals division in 2001. In 2006, PCI joined BASF when it acquired Degussa's construction chemicals business. A significant milestone came in 2017 when BASF acquired Henkel's Western European construction chemicals business, including the THOMSIT brand, integrating it into PCI. This acquisition expanded PCI's product portfolio, particularly in flooring technology.

Today, PCI Augsburg GmbH is a successful and growing company, a leading manufacturer of construction chemical products, and the market leader in tile

installation materials in German-speaking regions. The company continues to invest in its three locations—Augsburg, Hamm, and Wittenberg. Since May 2023, PCI Augsburg GmbH, along with its product brands PCI and THOMSIT, has been part of Sika in Germany. Its products are now distributed under the newly structured Sika Distribution division.

Strong innovation Over the Last Few Years

- In 2020, PCI introduced THOMSIT-SMP parquet adhesives based on its proprietary VISKO-FLEX technology, offering enhanced performance, improved installation comfort, and significant time and cost savings. These adhesives accelerate construction progress, allowing installers to cover more square meters than before.

- In 2023, the proven flexible mortar PCI Nanolight was further improved in response to increasing market demands. The revised formula, based on lightweight mortar technology, impresses with higher stability, a longer adjustment time, and an even smoother and lighter application profile.

A major milestone came in 2024 with the launch of PCI Nanorapid, the world's first deformable tile adhesive using CSA technology. As part of PCI's high-tech and sustainable Nano product line, this innovation provides installers with extended working and adjustment times while maintaining rapid setting. The CSA technology significantly reduces the carbon footprint of fast-setting tile adhesives.

Also in 2024, PCI introduced a new generation of THOMSIT leveling compounds, offering fast readiness for covering and reliable work progress. Thanks to modern, sustainable binders and special additives, these compounds provide crack-free results—even in challenging conditions like high humidity or low temperatures.

Despite the ongoing construction crisis, especially in new builds, PCI remains well-positioned for the future under Sika's leadership. The company continues to focus on system solutions for renovation, refurbishment, and modernization—helping craftsmen complete complex renovation projects with ease, ensuring compatibility of materials, and guaranteeing a smooth workflow. In response to skilled labor shortages, PCI is developing easy-to-use systems that ensure job site safety, supplemented by digital and analog support tools.

▪ **Sustainability is a Core Focus at PCI**

Sustainability is a key priority for both Sika and PCI Augsburg GmbH, shaping daily business operations and forming a cornerstone of Sika's 2028 corporate strategy. PCI prioritizes environmentally friendly raw materials in production, sustainable and recycled packaging materials, and lightweight products to reduce transportation emissions. Various environmental certifications, including the well-known "Blaue Engel" eco-label, highlight PCI's contribution to healthier indoor air quality and user well-being.

Sika aims to lead the construction and manufacturing industries in achieving net-zero emissions. The company supports the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) and is part of a growing group of leading businesses whose emissions reduction targets align with the Paris Agreement. Sika is committed to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

"From a two-man business in post-war Germany to one of the leading manufacturers of construction chemicals—this is something to be proud of," said Joachim Straub, Chairman of PCI's Management Board. "Our success has always come from knowing what the market needs, allowing us to adapt to changing conditions."

Daniela Schmiedle, Managing Director of Sika Germany, added: "This success is only possible through close collaboration with distributors and craftsmen, as well as the dedication of our employees. We want to take this opportunity to thank our customers and the PCI team for 75 years of trustful cooperation, and we look forward to a bright future."

For more information about PCI Augsburg GmbH and its history: www.pci-augsburg.eu/en/about-us/company/70-years-of-pci

Images



Historical production of PCI Emulsion ([Link to high-resolution photo](#))



PCI Flexmörtel – Generic term for a whole product group ([Link to high-resolution photo](#))



Jointing with PCI Durapox Premium Harmony ([Link to high-resolution photo](#))



PCI-Headquarters in Augsburg ([Link to high-resolution photo](#))

About PCI

PCI Augsburg GmbH is part of Sika Holding CH AG & Co KG and leader in the tile laying materials sector for specialist firms in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. In addition, the company supplies product systems for waterproofing, concrete protection and repair, as well as a complete product range for the flooring sector. The products of PCI Augsburg GmbH are marketed under the product brands PCI and THOMSIT.

PCI Augsburg GmbH employs over 700 people at its three sites in Augsburg, Wittenberg and Hamm. In 2024, Sika generated net sales of around €950 million in Germany with more than 3,400 employees. Further information about PCI on the Internet at www.pci-augsburg.de.

About SIKA AG

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 protecting in the building sector and motor vehicle industry. Sika has subsidiaries in 103 countries around the world and manufactures in over 400 factories, develops innovative technologies for customers around the globe, making a significant contribution to the sustainable transformation of the construction and transportation industry. Its more than 34,000 employees generated annual sales of CHF 11.763 billion in 2024. More information at: www.sika.com/.

Press Contact:

Dr. Susanne Herchner

Manager Corporate Communication and Press

Sika Handel Bau

Tel.: +49 (821) 5901-464

Fax: +49 (821) 5901-540

E-Mail: herchner.susanne@de.sika.com