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BUILDING COMMUNITY



NEW SAN FRANCISCO ATTRACTION AWARDED FOR USE OF PEX PIPE HEATING AND COOLING SYSTEM

IRVING, Texas - San Francisco's Pier 15 Exploratorium was named Project of the Year for the Plastics Pipe Institute's Building & Construction Division.

The new Pier 15 Exploratorium (explore-a-tour-ium) will host more than one million visitors annually as a cultural and science learning center. Formerly a vacant eyesore, the recent renovation included a PEX-based radiant heating and cooling system. It is now a net-zero energy and a net-zero carbon, 330,000-square-foot facility with LEED-Gold certification.

"This project of the year shows how PEX can be a significant and important, modern, green building innovation," stated Tony Radoszewski, executive director of PPI, the major trade association representing all segments of the plastic pipe industry. He presented the award to PPI member company Uponor during the association's annual 2013 meeting.

The project used 200,000 feet of Uponor North America's Wirsbo hePEX™ crosslinked polyethylene (PEX-a) tubing for the radiant heating and cooling system that uses the San Francisco Bay as a heat sink/heat source.

The project renovated a century-old building on San Francisco's Pier 15 into the largest net-zero energy and net-zero carbon museum in the United States. The 330,000-square-foot, LEED®-Gold structure is projected to be 57 percent more efficient than the ASHRAE 90.1 energy standard requires, due in part to the Uponor radiant heating and cooling system.

"We are very proud to receive this recognition by our peers in the plastics pipe industry," said Bill Gray, president, Uponor North America. "The Pier 15 Exploratorium is an excellent example of the benefits of flexible plastic pipe and how it can transform a historic building into an impressively sustainable project."

The use of Uponor's Radiant Rollout™ Mats reduced installation time on approximately 80 percent of the floor surface. The custom-designed mats are prefabricated to project specifications at Uponor's factory in Apple Valley, Minn.

"The mats feature pre-pressurized rolls of PEX-a tubing loops fitted with Uponor ProPEX® engineered polymer (EP) fittings, which are safe for burial in the slab," said Him Ly, senior design engineer of Technical Services at Uponor. "Once on the job site, the mats roll out like carpeting over the floor space, providing approximately 85 percent faster installs compared to conventional radiant tubing methods."



According to Kate Olinger, product manager of Plumbing at Uponor and member of PPI, the Pier 15 project showcases the importance of plastic pipe in two ways. It shows how flexible PEX can work around existing structural components to renew an old building into a high-performance structure that showcases best-practices for sustainable design. Additionally, it provides another educational tool for the Exploratorium where visitors can learn about the energy-efficiency of PEX-based radiant heating and cooling systems.



About PPI:

The Plastics Pipe Institute Inc. (PPI) is the major trade association representing all segments of the plastic pipe industry and is dedicated to promoting plastics as the material of choice for pipe applications. PPI is the premier technical, engineering and industry knowledge resource publishing data for use in development and design of plastic pipe systems. Additionally, PPI collaborates with industry organizations that set standards for manufacturing practices and installation method.