

Press release

Plant Engineering and Fabrication Experts Form the Connected Pipeshop Alliance



Four leading companies for solutions for engineering and fabrication of pipes in mechanical and plant engineering are joining their expertise in the Connected Pipeshop Alliance.

Nittendorf, April 4, 2025

In April 2025, Smap3D Plant Design GmbH and three other industry leaders – Pipe Bending Systems, Polysoude, and T-Drill – launch the Connected Pipeshop Alliance. After years of close cooperation, the companies are elevating their partnership to a new, more committed level, aiming to strengthen trust in a fully integrated solution for pipeline engineering and fabrication through a unique joint approach.

The Connected Pipeshop Alliance combines unparalleled expertise in pipe engineering, bending, collaring, and welding to provide plant manufacturers with an integrated turnkey solution for engineering and fabricating highly precise piping systems. By unifying cutting-edge software and equipment, the Connected Pipeshop Alliance ensures unmatched productivity, efficiency, and quality in plant construction.

Smap3D Pipefab as the Core of the Collaboration

As a long-time pioneer in seamless digital processes for pipeline engineering and fabrication, Smap3D is taking this collaboration to the next level: Its advanced Manufacturing Execution System (MES), Smap3D Pipefab, bridges the gap between pipe engineering and fabrication and builds the heart of the collaboration. The MES ensures that digital design data from Smap3D Plant Design software, which seamlessly integrates with leading CAD systems such as Solidworks, Inventor, and Solid Edge, is efficiently transferred into the fabrication process. As a result, it enables workflow-driven and precise manufacturing planning as well as complete control over the entire pipeline process. Data can also be imported from third-party systems via Step, Igas or PCF interfaces and pipes can be drawn directly in Smap3D Pipefab.

A Proven Partnership with Demonstrated Synergies

Since 2023, Smap3D Plant Design and its three partners have operated a joint showroom at Pipe Bending Systems headquarters in Lennestadt, Germany, where numerous visitors have experienced live demonstrations of this seamless synergy in action. The integrated overall process, from pipeline engineering to fabrication, combines the individual expertise of all partners.

Expertise of the Alliance Members:

- **Smap3D Plant Design (Germany):** As a leading provider of solutions for integrated 2D and 3D engineering as well as pipe fabrication and control, enables a fully integrated process chain – from design to manufacturing. This digitalization not only increases efficiency but also significantly reduces error rates and material waste.
- **Pipe Bending Systems (Germany):** The machine manufacturer delivers high-precision pipe bending machines and measuring systems that are adaptable and modular. These machines allow for highly efficient production, even in single-part manufacturing scenarios, achieving smart, scalable, and flexible production lines.
- **T-Drill (Finland):** As a pioneer in collaring, flanging, and end forming technology, T-Drill offers machines designed to streamline tube and pipe fabrication processes. The T-Drill method for branch pipe connections reduces the need for additional fittings and cuts fabrication time and costs, adhering to the highest quality standards recognized by multiple classification societies.
- **Polysoude (France):** Recognized worldwide for expertise in orbital and automated welding, Polysoude's fully digital Smart Welding Stations meet the

highest standards of Industry 4.0, ensuring reliable, high-quality welding solutions for critical applications across industries.

Driving Industry 4.0 and Digital Transformation

The Connected Pipeshop Alliance is deeply committed to setting new standards in the digitalization of pipeline engineering and fabrication. Its innovative solutions include real-time data transfer, quality management, batch tracking, and production documentation. Additional features for warehouse management, assembly logistics, and welding documentation control ensure a truly digital and efficient process.

Revolutionizing Pipe Fabrication and Plant Engineering

With their combined expertise, innovative tools, and international market reach, the Connected Pipeshop Alliance is set to revolutionize the industry and to ensure a fully digitalized process landscape. It provides machine and plant manufacturers with seamless solutions to enhance quality, streamline operations, and embrace digital transformation.

More information about the Connected Pipeshop Alliance can be found at www.connected-pipeshop.com/en.

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About Smap3D Plant Design GmbH

Smap3D Plant Design offers holistic software solutions for the engineering and fabrication of pipes. The company covers the entire process chain, from process engineering (P&ID) through piping planning (3D Piping) and Isometric, to production planning and control. Modules for steel construction and for the simulation and conversion of point cloud data (3D Laser scanning) round out the portfolio. The solutions can be completely integrated into the most common CAD systems in use in industry, Solid Edge, SolidWorks and Inventor, enabling turnkey plant engineering. With headquarters in Germany as well as worldwide offices and partners, Smap3D Plant Design has distinguished itself through many years of expertise in plant planning and construction. The team provides assistance and advice to customers and partners, from consulting and implementation to training and technical support. This continuous process in all phases of product development has been proven in companies from many different industries, including process industry (e.g. chemical, beverage, food, pharmaceutical), environment and water technology.

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