

PRESS RELEASE

Augsburg, 03.07.2023

The third PCI-Alpencup from June 29 - 30, 2023 - this year in Switzerland with nine participating countries

PCI-Alpencup 2023: Team Austria wins the Challenge Cup again

Augsburg, 03.07.2023 – For the third time, PCI Augsburg GmbH organized the PCI-Alpencup in close cooperation with the European Union National Tile Associations (EUF), 2023 for the first time in Switzerland. 18 young craftspeople from nine countries competed for the PCI-Alpencup Challenge from June 29 to 30, 2023. Team Austria with Sara Sinhuber and Florian Gruber defended their title and won first place, followed by the teams from Germany (second place) and France (third place).

As in previous years, it was an exciting competition between the tilers and in the end a very close race. After the task had been evaluated by the expert jury, Team Austria was just "a step ahead" and was able to secure victory again at the PCI-Alpencup 2023. 22-year-old Sara Sinhuber from Gföhl and Florian Gruber (20) from Irdning won the PCI-Alpencup Challenge for the Austrian team. Runners-up are Manuel Karg and Lukas Schmittlutz (Team Germany). Third place went to Karim Doledec and Goulven Lecoq from France. All 18 participants of the PCI-Alpencup 2023 are invited to Sika's '10ths International Tiler Competition - Global Finals' in Guangzhou, China, in Q4/ 2023.

PCI introduced the PCI-Alpencup in 2021 as a new format as part of its promotion of young professionals and organized it in close cooperation with the European Union National Tile Associations (EUF). The format has since

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established itself and continues to grow from time to time. Nine countries took part in the third international performance competition: Germany, Austria, Switzerland and South Tyrol as well as Denmark, France, Norway, Sweden and the Czech Republic. A total of eighteen young craftspeople entered the race on June 29 and showed their skills on two days of the competition. The award ceremony on the evening of June 29 concluded the event. The venue was in Switzerland for the first time in 2023, the event took place in the Dagmersellen vocational training center in central Switzerland near Lucerne.

As with the previous PCI-Alpencup events, each team of two had to complete a task based on the level of the World Skills Championships (WorldSkills) or European Championships (EuroSkills) within a specified time frame. As with the first PCI-Alpencup in 2021, the task set by the jury was very challenging this year. The participants had to tile a wall with rectangular tiles in a diagonal herringbone pattern, with the accuracy of the diagonal cuts being particularly important. A bench in the shower area had to be covered with mosaic. It was necessary to prepare a level laying substrate so that the mosaic could be fixed neatly. Furthermore, large-format wall and floor tiles with an exact joint pattern and a flat surface had to be produced. When tiling the washbasin, absolute precision was required when cutting the sections. The gradient in the shower area was created by installing a screed.

One participating country is in charge of the task and appoints the jury chairman. After Germany (2021) and Switzerland (2022), it was Denmark this year.

The aim of the PCI-Alpencup is to support young craftspeople as part of the promotion of young professionals, to give them an opportunity of taking part in international cooperation, to exchange views and to measure their performance against each other. In 2022, Team Austria won with Timo-Nils

Theisl and Patrick Hollerer, in 2021 Team Germany won with Silas Dulle and Tim Necker.

Parallel to the competition, decentralized training events and workshops were held at various locations for young people in the tiler's trade throughout Germany in June, which was themed "Check the tile – my future in the tiler's trade".

"We are pleased that the PCI-Alpencup has successfully established itself as one of our modules for promoting young professionals and is attracting more participants every year. The feedback was once again unanimous: the PCI-Alpencup 2023 was completely successful!" sums up Stephan Tschernek, Head of Marketing PCI Group. "With this unique format, we offer young craftspeople the opportunity to meet, exchange ideas and compete in an attractive setting. In view of the increasingly serious shortage of skilled workers, it is more important than ever to strengthen the image of the tiler's profession."

PCI accompanied the PCI-Alpencup 2023 on various channels. On the landing page www.pci-alpencup.com, anyone interested could follow the competition live via several web cams. All competition results, video recordings, photos, films, posts and stories can also be accessed there afterwards.

PCI Augsburg GmbH, part of Sika since May 2023, is one of the leading manufacturers of construction chemical products in Germany with around 1,150 employees and sales of almost 350 million euros. The company offers innovative and sustainable products and solutions for the construction trends of tomorrow. This means that PCI has been the market leader in the German-speaking tile laying sector for more than 40 years.

Images



*Team Austria with Sara Sinhuber and Florian Gruber wins the PCI-Alpencup 2023
([Link](#) to high-resolution photo)*



*The participants in the PCI-Alpencup 2023, the PCI team as well as the jury and experts
([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 PCI Group employs a staff of about 1,150 in Europe and generated sales of almost €350 million net in 2022. Further information about PCI on the Internet under 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 101 countries around the world and manufactures in over 300 factories. Its more than 27,500 employees generated annual sales of CHF 10.49 billion in 2022.

More information at: www.sika.com/.

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