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Network 41 plans technical installations for SBB stations

The SBB is renewing a number of stations on the line between Winterthur and Rapperswil. For six of the refurbishments and new facilities, Network 41 is responsible for the planning and site management of the technical installations.

Extended platforms, new customer centres, pedestrian underpasses – the SBB is investing heavily in updating the railway infrastructure in the Töss-tal region. Refurbishment and new construction work always involves the installation of new facilities such as speakers, clocks, ticket and drinks machines as well as renewing the lighting. In some cases there is also a need for new engineering rooms, as well as new heating and ventilation systems or access control facilities.

"Work for the SBB is not something that comes up every day and it's very different from other assignments," says project coordinator Gregor Felder. "This applies in two ways. Firstly, special

regulations apply to the SBB. Secondly, the employment contract is very interesting because the SBB hands over an entire project for independent completion."

The railway runs on 16 2/3 Hertz while the public power supply is 50 Hertz. This is why the earthing system has to be specially planned and designed so that no disruptions occur.

"Working with the SBB gives you insights into the diverse departments of the railway company – and that's really fascinating," says Gregor Felder. "Another thing that is different about working for the SBB is how contracts are awarded. The SBB pays close attention to quality and asks for references. The key factor is whether you have the key personnel to handle a project."

Planning the new installations at the stations is only part of the work, however. Coordination of all the installations is almost more demanding: orders have to be handled on schedule, and the installation teams have to be on site at the right time. Sometimes cranes and other equipment is needed which has to be specially connected to the earthing system. Safety regulations have to be observed at all times while the work is being carried out. Work on the railway tracks or electrical distribution units has to be announced several weeks in advance. "It's a real challenge to handle all these various elements," says Gregor Felder.

Network 41 has been working for the SBB in Töss-tal since the beginning of 2015. Three Network41 staff are mainly deployed to take care of this new construction and refurbishment work at stations between Winterthur and Rapperswil. The contract expires at the end of 2019.



Gregor Felder,
Project Coordinator, Network 41

"It's really interesting to work for the SBB. You get insights into lots of departments and you can work very independently."