

# The water FACTORY

**A successful partnership for the Roxane water-bottling factory at Merignies.**

*by Raphaël Gobin, Mapei France*

Roxane, whose headquarters are at Alençon dans l'Orne, in France, has witnessed steady economic growth due to the increasing demand for mineral water. Since 2002 Roxane, the third-biggest mineral water-bottling company in France, has been operating at its new bottling factory in Merignies.

The main site contractor of this project was Eurovia Normandie, represented by the Alençon agency.

The site was developed on three distinct areas:

- a conditioning and labelling area covering 3,000 m<sup>2</sup>, classified as U4P4S according to the Technical Rules issued by CSTb;
- a decanting and washing area covering 400 m<sup>2</sup>, classified as P3 according to the Technical Rules issued by CSTb;
- an administration and changing-rooms area covering approximately 600 m<sup>2</sup>, classified as P3.

The floors in these three areas were laid with 12cm-thick, 20x20cm Flaviker porcelain tiles (on a concrete substrate), while Colorker and Aleluia majolica tiles were bonded to the walls.

Eurovia Alençon fully satisfied the requirements of the client, by keeping constantly in touch during the entire course of the work and meeting the agreed deadlines. They used the best materials available to overcome numerous technical problems which arose during the work. A real partnership was formed to face up to the



challenge of also following the work "from afar". Eurovia Alençon also involved the company Carrelages Ornaïs in the project, the local distributor with a 40-year experience in the distribution of tiles and laying products.

This company was quick to include the name of Mapei when it made a competitive offer for the work and also encouraged permanent technical discussions between the various partners involved in the operation. Mapei gave an important contribution especially as far as the technical aspects of the work are concerned. The work in question involved an extremely large surface area and the time available was very limited. What is more, there were particularly complex technical problems to be overcome due to the special plant machinery to be installed and the future working conditions in each area.

Carrelages Ornaïs carried out a technical presentation to the client which had been prepared by Mapei, documenting the company's vast experience in industrial projects.

Indeed, the solutions offered by Mapei for bonding the tiles had to con-

sider both their class (U4P4S), to guarantee that all the areas would maintain this classification, and its commercial viability, given the large areas involved.

Mapei's technical and commercial organisation proved to be of precious help during the delicate commercial negotiations. Raphaël Gobin, regional sales manager for Mapei in Orne, who interfaces on a daily basis with Carrelages Ornaïs, got in touch with his colleague from the north, Gregory Delnatte, and presented him with the numerous technical site problems to be examined and verified.

Gregory Delnatte decided, therefore, to make an inspection of the factory under construction, to look around the various areas and to meet the partners involved in the construction of the factory.

It was at this stage that Mapei recommended the use of GRANIRAPID\* system, classified as suitable to "U4P4S areas for heavy traffic" and, in their experience of industrial areas, considered ideal for use in this special kind of environments.

KERAFLEX\* high-performance cementitious adhesive, on the other hand, was used for laying the floors in the administration and changing rooms areas. ADESILEX P22 PLUS\* (a product only available for the French market), an adhesive particularly suitable for bonding ceramic tiles on plasterboard surfaces, was used for the walls. The tile joints were sealed using white KERACOLOR FF\*, cementitious grout for joints up to 6 mm.

One of the most complex areas was the washing and decanting area, not due to the type of surface or for the usage class to respect, but for the future working conditions in this special area and because the products used for cleaning and maintenance would be in permanent contact with the tiles and joints. For this application, Mapei experts recommended using KERAPOXY P\* for bonding the tiles and grouting the tile joints. This product was chosen because of its special characteristics, which make it suitable for environments in which total hygiene is required along with resistance to most aggressive chemicals, not to mention its easy application.

Mapei took an active part in the laying of the tiles in this area, with one of their own technicians, Patrick Kuprinskas, working together with the installation company Prestibat, by carefully demonstrating the best methods for using KERAPOXY P\* for the tile joints.

His work consisted above all in demonstrating its special use by employing professional tools developed for the tile joints, and modified felt floats which allow the product to emulsify and make cleaning more simple.

To obtain successful results on this site, it was important to create good collaboration between all the parties involved, and that Mapei offered valid technical assistance for the start-up of the tile-laying and grouting operations.

In fact, during the site start-up, this assistance was made possible due to the availability and presence of a Mapei technician, who showed the installation company how to get the best results out of the Mapei products. Addressing certain problems which arose directly on site, led the team towards the use of products which were different to those initially selected, and Mapei contributed to this team-work by offering valid technical opinions without damaging relationships with their client.

There is an aspect worth mentioning, which helped in the success of the site work: the excellent cooperation between the client, the site manager, the installation company, the distributor and the manufacturer.

The initial "geographic" distance between all the various members of the team was overcome by the permanent dialogue between the distributor and Mapei, who received valid on-site assistance from Eurovia Normandie (represented by Alençon agency), and with the agreement of Roxane, the final client.



Our thanks go to "Mapei & Vous", n. 11, published by Mapei France, from which this article was taken.



**\*Mapei Products:** the products referred to in this article belong to the "Products for Ceramic Tiles and Stone Materials" range. The technical data sheets are available on the "Mapei Global Infonet" CD/DVD and from the web site: [www.mapei.com](http://www.mapei.com). Mapei adhesives and grouts conform to EN 12004 and EN 13888 standards.

**Adesilex P22 Plus (D1TE):** ready-to-use paste adhesive for laying tiles on internal walls. **N.B.** This product is only available for the French market.

**Granirapid (C2F):** high performance, two-component, fast-setting and drying cementitious adhesive for ceramic tiles and stone material.

**Keracolor FF (CG2):** high performance cementitious grout, polymer modified, water repellent with DropEffect®, for joints up to 6 mm.

**Keraflex (C2TE):** high performance cementitious adhesive, with no vertical slip and extended open time for ceramic tiles and stone material.

**Kerapoxy/Kerapoxy P (RG):** two-component, acid-resistant epoxy grout, available in 26 colours, for joints of at least 3 mm. Can also be used as an adhesive. **Kerapoxy P** is recommended for grouting large flooring surfaces.



## TECHNICAL DATA

**Roxane mineral water-bottling plant**, Merignies (France)

**Work:** installation of ceramic tiles on industrial floors  
**Year:** 2002

**Customer:** Roxane S.A.

**Project and Work Management:** Eurovia (represented by Alençon agency)

**Contractor:** Eurovia

**Installation Company:** Prestibat, Carrieres-sur-Seine (France)

**Mapei Distributor:** Carrelages Ornaïs

**Mapei Co-ordinators:** Raphaël Gobin and Gregory Delnatte, Mapei France