

Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for Holderbank Access Bridge

Author: [Stofer, Peter](#)

23.10.2012

The new access bridge in Holderbank was officially opened on Saturday, October 20, 2012.



The new access bridge in Holderbank was officially opened on Saturday, October 20, 2012. Representatives from Holcim as well as the project managers, contractors and the city of Holderbank jointly cut the symbolic ribbon, officially dedicating the finished project. The 76-meter-long bridge connects the city with the Schachen Industrial Park, replacing the previous bridge, which had to be demolished due to defects. Markus Denk, who was in charge of Holcim's part of the project, has been involved in the planning and construction work over the course of the past three years.

"We cannot see into the future, but we can lay the groundwork for what is to come – the future is for us to build," said Urs Bleisch at the dedication ceremony for the access bridge, referencing the words of the French author Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. "This is exactly what Holcim has accomplished in building the new bridge, namely laying a foundation for the future," noted the CEO of Holcim Group Support.

The opening festivities brought an end to the nearly year-long construction period. Construction contractor Implenia used 1,500 cubic meters of concrete, laid 175 tonnes of armatures and clad 2,900 square meters of concrete surface area. The result is a four-span T-beam bridge across the SBB railroad tracks. "Simple, elegant, statically efficient," was the comment from project author Andrea Fanzun of Fanzun AG on the new bridge.



Holcim Group Support CEO Bleisch expressed his conviction that the new bridge does not just connect point A with point B, but is a matter of vital importance. He noted that it not only helps people get to their places of work but also allows the goods they produce to reach their intended markets. The bridge creates added value for everyone using it. "It is a means of shaping the future," he stressed.

Bleisch was especially proud of the fact that the construction activities saw no serious accidents. "At Holcim, workplace safety is a major priority. 'Zero harm to people' is how we describe our approach."

Both construction workers and planners faced challenges, noted Bleisch. Problems with the underlying rock as well as soil contamination had to be solved, and changes and delays to the project had to be dealt with, all of which led to an increase in construction costs.



Urs Bleisch, CEO HGRS



Markus Denk, Head Facility Management & Services



Andrea Fanzun, Fanzun AG

Holcim itself bore CHF 2.58 million of the total costs of CHF 4.75 million. The financing partners for the construction project are Fixit AG and Rigips AG, Holcim's neighbors in the Schachen Industrial Park. Bleisch expressed his thanks to both, as well as to the residents of Holderbank, noting that although they were inconvenienced by construction activities, they showed great patience and understanding.

New traffic situation:

Please be aware of the traffic situation around the bridge, specially the new road crossing and the right-of-way situation, always follow the right-of-way rules. New pedestrian crossings are marked, please respect that pedestrians always have priority over vehicular traffic.