

Geothermal Heating at Solaire Apartments TRITON™ Pipe Fusion System Trims Costs & Labor

Industry:
Residential

Category:
Geothermal
heating

Location:
Brighton, CO

Installation:
TRITON™



- CUSTOMER:** SMC Geothermal
- SCOPE:** Geothermal heating & cooling system for 252-unit, 12-building apartment complex
- CHALLENGE:** Reduce project and labor costs to submit competitive bid
- SOLUTION:** TRITON™ Pipe Fusion System
- RESULTS:** Saved approximately \$1,000 per mechanical room

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*- Conald Frank,
owner of SMC
Geothermal*

One of Colorado's largest geothermal projects is tapping the next generation in plastic pipe fusing to trim significant costs from its winning bid. Solaire Apartments, in Brighton, Colorado, will be heated and cooled entirely by ground-source heat pumps.

SMC Geothermal, the company that designed and installed the complex's geothermal system, submitted a bid that was \$2.5 million under the competition. Conald Frank, owner of SMC, trimmed costs by re-designing the system from one large community loop to 23 individual loops. But to come in \$2.5 million under the competition took more than a redesign. Frank used a new pipe fusing method, the TRITON™ Pipe Fusion system, to save countless hours of labor and create a safer work environment.

The 3-person firm knew they'd have their hands full fusing HDPE distribution pipe inside the building. And because the 2-inch lines need to share space with ductwork, electrical, and plumbing lines, the space was limited. “The TRITON™ system not only takes a huge physical strain off the installer, but one guy can fuse by himself,” says Frank. “Usually, it takes two people; one to hold the pipe while another holds the iron. TRITON also eliminates the risk of burns, which is a reality for anyone fusing pipes with an iron.”

The ability to dry-fit before fusing makes it much easier to work in and around joist bays. TRITON™ really shines in mechanical rooms, where the majority of the fittings are located. “I'd say that the TRITON™ system saved me roughly \$1,000 per mechanical room,” says Frank.



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