siFramo: a modular non-welded steel support system

A first-of-a-kind in Africa, siFramo is a non-welded modular steel truss structural support system that saves time, money and labour. It is being introduced into South Africa by Gismo Installations, which is the distributor for the Sikla and siFramo brands in Southern Africa.

5 years ago, Sikla pioneered siFramo: a versatile, multifunctional and high load bearing modular steel frame system for supporting pipes, beams, trusses and a host of anchor support applications. SiFramo is the only such system with 1-Screw technology in the world, and it is now available in South Africa through Gismo Installations.

Developed as a cost effective and realistic alternative to welding, the siFramo modular steelwork support system is designed for the modular construction of frames and structures. Multidirectional connections are made possible, without the need for through-bolts and back-plates. The connection method is simple, fast, reliable and safe. The entire system is certified according to international standards.

The box section profiles used have high torsional resistance and a fine adjustment capability, making it very easy to connect members together.

siFramo is assembled using thread forming screws. The non-cutting cold formed threads of the screw form their own threads into pre-drilled pilot holes of the perforated siFramo profiles. The resulting low thread forming torque and high clamping force offers a superior process-reliable shake-proof fastening. The



Applications for Sikla's siFramo system include: multi-service modules, plantrooms, roof top plant equipment, support frames, data centre modules, pipe bridges, shelters, access walkways and platforms, and many more.

siFramo offers a 2D/3D CAD library for easy creation of construction design details. This library is available for and directly compatible with the building information modelling (BIM) software tools for many CAE packages, including Autodesk Revit and MicroStation.

thread forming screws are also removable and reusable.

Key advantages of using the system over traditional bolted or welded structural supports include:

- Reduced overall project time.
- Detailed design can be delayed and the system remains adaptable should designs change.
- Cost and time advantages regarding transport (earlier or cheaper).
- More economical (material, installation time, overall).
- No skilled staff needed, possible to be built by one person.
- Reduced material used and/or stocked.
- Fabrication can take place anywhere.
- Weight saving of about 50%, hence less/no crane and less man power and reduced costs.
- Immediate corrosion protection (HDG).
- Static proof according to RStab Structural Frame & Truss Analysis Software calculations.
- Adjustments and modifications can be easily implemented.
- Significantly less steel is used, resulting in a reduced impact on the environment.
- Ideal applications include: pipe support structures and equipment; pipe bridge systems; PV solar support frames; plant room piping; high voltage power cable conduits; conveyor supports, and many more.
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