Van de Velde installatiegroep and FACET

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Van de Velde Installation Group is an installation company in the broadest sense of the word and has existed for more than 75 years. In that time the family business has grown into a very complete, modern and innovative organization with both private clients and clients in the contracting and (semi) government.

Van de Velde was already a well-known partner of the HZ University of Applied Sciences through, among other things, the guest lectures they give to the engineering course. Van de Velde's knowledge and skills were therefore well known within HZ, making it a logical partner for the FACET project.

Intrinsic motivation

Van de Velde has a strong intrinsic motivation to contribute to a more sustainable world. Basically, the company is reducing its own footprint by, for example, taking this into account in its own business operations. This is reflected in, among other things, the company's own office: heat pumps are used, there is an in-house waste collection facility where all industrial waste is separated and the vehicle fleet is filled with electric cars as much as possible.

Role within the FACET project

Within the FACET project, van de Velde is responsible for all installations within the building. That starts with a plan. What are the client's wishes in the process and how can we implement this within existing laws and regulations? The desire within the project is of course innovative: a nice challenge for van de Velde!

Installations within the building are made with the idea of being able to deinstall and reuse the materials as much as possible. Whereas in a traditional project one often works with complete packages that can no longer be deconstructed, in this project van de Velde looked as much as possible, together with the other project partners, at how elements can be constructed and also kept demountable so materials can be reused. This minimizes residual waste and environmental impact. A good example of demountable installations are ventilation channels. These are plastic, but the pipes can be removed from the construction again. When cleaned and given a new connecting piece, these can be given a second life.

Lessons learned

At the start of the project, there is intensive contact about how to build the structure as sustainably as possible. This is a pleasant way of working, because it truly becomes a joint project and you are inspired by others. You also look together at how you can limit transport movements and reduce the number of work steps. Another experience is that working with bio-based materials sometimes gets in the way of working in a circular cycle. Within the spectrum, the most sustainable choice must then be made and that is a consideration you make together. Another great lesson is that by using or placing existing materials in a different way, you can already make steps in the sustainable cycle. Marco Voogd from van de Velde Installation Group says: "We are not there yet, but when we are aware of how we use our existing products, we are already making steps. In a project like this, we can apply these steps nicely and develop them further."

The knowledge gained from these projects can be disseminated and further developed in the future. It is nice to be able to participate in a project like this so that we can also develop our own business operations. Awareness of the subject is growing in our society and the group of parties who will be thinking about it is also growing. It is a development process in which we like to be a part.