

**Knauf Kwikflex™ Pipe
and Tank Insulation**
Makes Headlines with Kansas
City *Star* Facility





Impressive Stories

Kansas City *Star* Facility

Success in the newspaper business means getting the story fast and getting it right. A newspaper builds a solid reputation by delivering the most compelling news quickly and—above all—accurately. Most readers never realize the major effort that goes into delivering the news to their doorstep every day to read with their morning cup of coffee.

When the Kansas City *Star* chose to build a major production and distribution facility in downtown Kansas City, the scope of the project placed similar demands for speed and dependability on the contractors involved—and Knauf Insulation's KwikFlex Pipe and Tank Insulation helped answer the call.

The Kansas City *Star* makes the news

When Knight Ridder unveiled plans for the Kansas City *Star's* \$199 million production facility, the paper found itself *in* the news instead of just reporting it. After all, the project is a big story for downtown Kansas City, with emphasis on the word "big:" with a footprint of 170,000 square feet, the *Star* facility will take up two full blocks just south of the heart of the city.



60,000 square feet of Knauf KwikFlex™ Pipe and Tank Insulation was used to wrap the large diameter ducts in the *Star* facility.



Project Profile

Kansas City Star Newspaper
Kansas City, Missouri

Size: 450,000 square feet
 Cost: \$199 million
 Designer,
 General Contractor
 and Engineer: Austin Company
 Insulation Contractor: INSCO Industries
 Insulation Distributor: 4-State Supply
 Knauf Product: KwikFlex™ Pipe and
 Tank Insulation

In making this decision, the *Star's* management hopes to contribute to a revitalization of downtown Kansas City, adding a bold new structure to the city's skyline. From its swooping roofline (the equivalent of four stories on its south end to eight stories on the north) to the turquoise wall of glass overlooking the city sidewalk, the building—developed by the Austin Company of Cleveland—is striking in its size and design.

"I think it's going to be a remarkable structure and a great addition to downtown," said Kansas City Mayor Kay Barnes.

But translating the spectacular project from architectural plans to reality also meant an incredible amount of work compressed into tight construction timelines with a number of unforeseen challenges along the way. Fortunately, Knauf Insulation offered products that allowed crews to stay productive and beat their deadlines.

Knauf Products

- KwikFlex™ Pipe and Tank Insulation (60,000 square feet)
- Insulation Board (200,000 square feet)
- Friendly Feel™ Duct Wrap, FSK and PSK
- 1000° Pipe Insulation (30,000 linear feet)

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or visit us online at www.KnaufInsulation.com

Extensive Coverage

Conditioning wide-open spaces

The *Star* building features a series of large spaces, from warehousing areas to rooms that can accommodate the newspaper's four new 60-foot tall printing presses and bullpen office space for the staff. With weather that runs the gamut from humid, 100°F+ high temperatures to the winter's two-foot snowfalls, conditioning these wide-open spaces presents a formidable challenge to the building's HVAC system, which uses 61 air handling units to condition the facility's 450,000 square feet.

Clearly, high-performance insulation was critical to preventing heat loss and keeping utility costs under control.

INSCO, 4-States and Knauf face the challenges

When Lenexa-based INSCO Industries was awarded the contract to insulate the Kansas City *Star* building, company president Matt Hurd knew the job would be a challenge.

Founded in 1984, INSCO focused primarily on industrial power and process plant insulation during its first decade, before moving into commercial projects. Now one of the top insulation contractors in the Kansas City area, INSCO celebrates its 20th year in business by focusing on one of Kansas City's biggest commercial projects in recent years in the *Star* facility.

"We always try to work harder and smarter, minimizing our overhead and maximizing our productivity," said Hurd. "We knew we'd have to take this philosophy to the next level on the *Star* project."

To make sure their crews had the right products on time, Project Manager Thad Bartlett worked with INSCO's long-time distribution partner, 4-State Supply. Bartlett and 4-States' Tom Snoddy knew that Knauf would be up to the task.

"Our guys work faster when they have material they like, and they always choose Knauf hands-down," said Bartlett. "We've found that one competitive product is full of glass shards, hard on the hands; another is too soft, and tough to handle. But Knauf is easy to cut and install."

For Snoddy, the size of the project meant he needed a manufacturer who could deliver on time, every time.

"4-State has been in business since the mid-80s, and we've always supplied Knauf insulation," he said. "In my experience, if people in the field have a choice, they want Knauf—it's the premium product."

"From my side of things, I need a manufacturer that's dependable. Jerry [Zukowski, Knauf Sales Representative] is always there with quality support. Knauf goes the extra mile to get me what I need, when I need it."

In this case, that meant a total of 200,000 square feet of Knauf Insulation Board, 30,000 linear feet of 1000° Pipe Insulation, significant amounts of FSK Duct Wrap, and 60,000 square feet of Knauf KwikFlex Pipe and Tank Insulation.



Knauf Products Deliver

A “Kwik” solution

A recent addition to Knauf’s Pipe and Equipment product line, KwikFlex Pipe and Tank Insulation provides an easy solution for insulating large diameter pipe and irregularly-shaped applications. KwikFlex is a faced fiber glass blanket with fibers that are specially formed to offer a unique combination of flexibility and compressive strength, allowing quick installation and a tight wrap around curved surfaces.

On the Kansas City *Star* project, KwikFlex Pipe and Tank Insulation offered a perfect solution for the 14” to 60” diameter round ductwork that runs throughout the structure.

Knauf’s high-wire act

One challenge faced by the INSCO team was the height of the ductwork. With ceilings up to 120 feet high, much of their work took place far above the concrete floor. Along with the sheer size

of the project, this made for a challenging installation. For the INSCO crews, this highlighted the need for a product that is easy to work with and installs quickly. KwikFlex Pipe and Tank Insulation fit the bill.

“This is the biggest commercial job I’ve done, so it’s important to stay on schedule and be ready for any crises that come up,” said Bill Kuhnoff, INSCO’s general foreman for the *Star* project.

“KwikFlex is easy to work with—it holds steady and stands up to the usual job site wear and tear,” Kuhnoff added. “We’ve beat all of our deadlines, and I give a lot of the credit to the product. By relying on Knauf, we avoided problems and kept on moving.”

Kuhnoff had two crews of ten employees each working on the *Star* site, and typically assigned two installers each day to handle KwikFlex. These two-man teams

installed an average of 650 square feet of KwikFlex daily, and gave the product positive reviews for fabrication and installation.

“It handles well, and cuts like butter,” said one veteran INSCO installer.

Behind the headlines

With construction proceeding according to schedule, the new facility is slated to begin producing newspapers in early 2006. And while Knauf Insulation may never appear on the front page of the Kansas City *Star*, Knauf’s KwikFlex Pipe and Tank Insulation, Insulation Board, Friendly Feel™ Duct Wrap and Pipe Insulation will help make the *Star* a more comfortable—and energy efficient—place to work.



The fiber orientation of Knauf KwikFlex Pipe and Tank Insulation provides excellent compressive strength for abuse resistance and to maintain thermal performance.



KwikFlex Pipe and Tank Insulation delivers the unique combination of flexibility and compressive strength which allows for a tight wrap around curved surfaces. Curvilinear cuts are also made easy due to Kwikflex's consistency in product density and quality.

KNAUF INSULATION



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Knauf: Preserving Our World's Energy Resources®

At Knauf, we manufacture a wide variety of products that serve a common goal: helping to make the most of our planet's energy resources. A family-owned global company, we understand and are committed to high standards in quality, performance and environmental responsibility. Every step we take today toward energy conservation helps ensure better lives for generations to come.



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