

Stockholm Vatten och Avfall: Cleaner Sorting, Happier People – With DISAB



INTRODUCTION

Stockholm Vatten och Avfall (SVOA) is responsible for waste management and water services in Sweden's capital. At their sorting plant in Högdalen, they handle around 660 tons of household waste every day — the equivalent of about 100 garbage trucks. Their mission is clear: recover as much material as possible while producing clean energy and minimizing landfill waste.

The plant sorts plastics, metals, and organic waste (collected in green bags) in a highly automatic process. With so much material moving through the plant every day, keeping the facility clean was a challenge. Spillage from the many conveyor belts created safety risks and could disrupt the sorting process if not managed properly – and equally important has a negative impact on the general working environment in the plant.

The Solution: DISAB Centralized Vacuum System!

SVOA chose DISAB to design and install a tailored vacuum system for their facility. The installation was designed in close cooperation also with Stadler, who is the supplier of the new sorting plant. It has made a major difference in maintaining a clean, safe, and efficient work environment.

Swipe for the full breakdown



Q: Who is Stockholm Vatten och Avfall (SVOA)?

A: We at SVOA are responsible for waste management and water services in Stockholm.

At the Högdalen sorting plant, we handle around 660 tons of household waste every day, which is about 100 garbage trucks worth.



Q: What happens at the sorting plant?

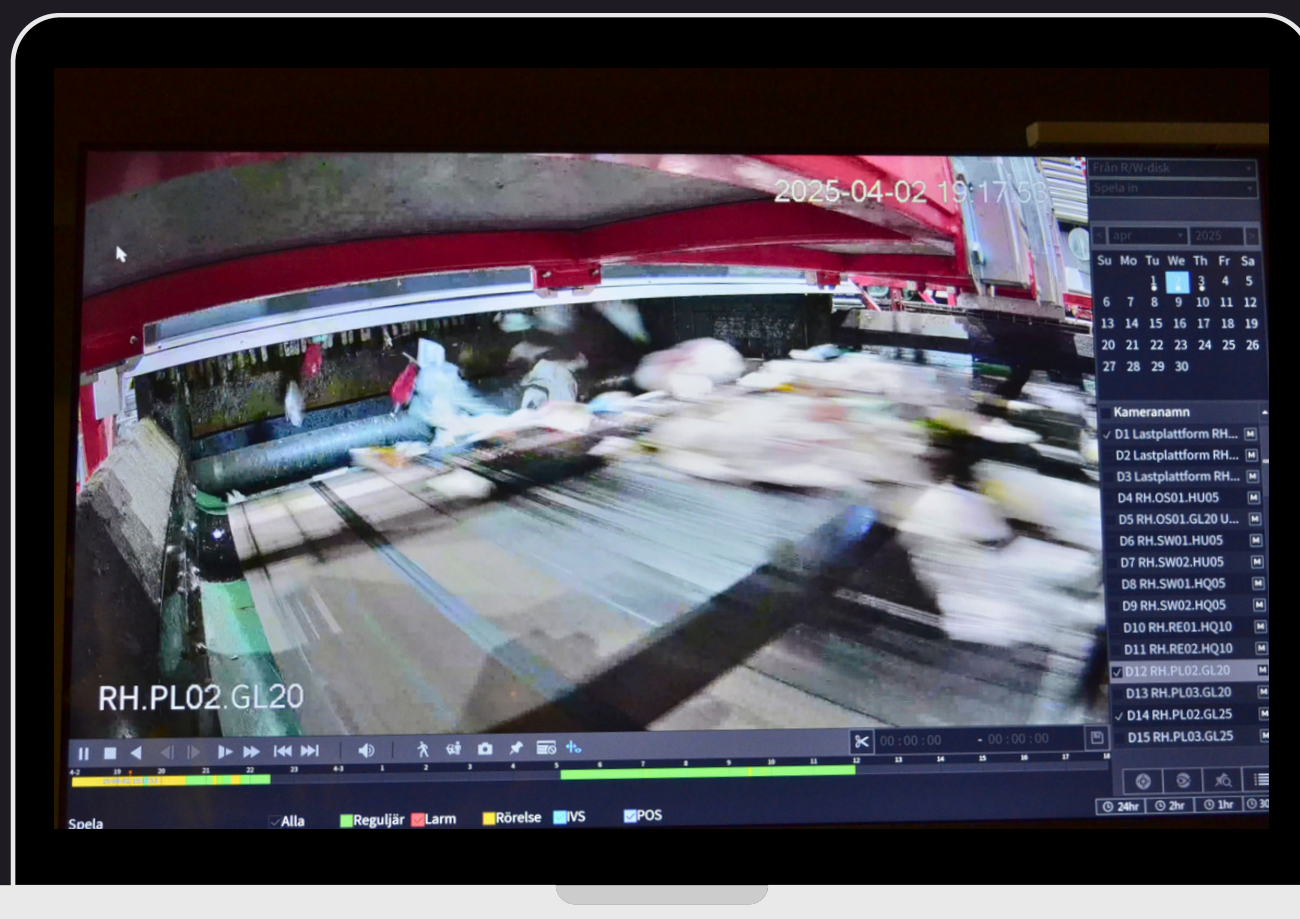
A: Plastics, metals, and organic waste (collected in green bags) are sorted out.

Plastics are sent to special recovery plants.

Metals are sent to metal recycling plants.

Organic waste is turned into biogas and fertilizer.

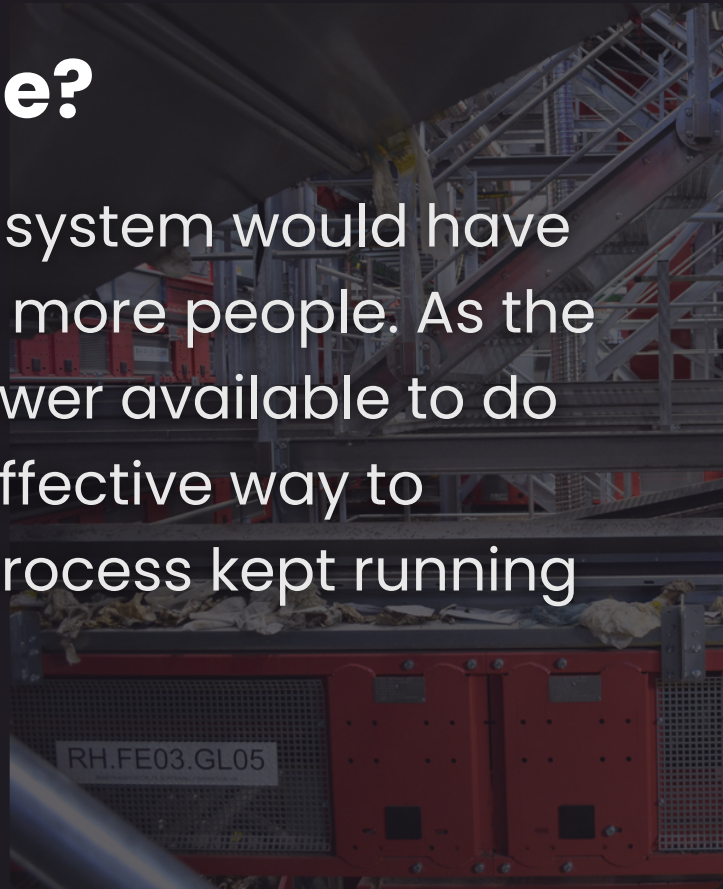
The remaining material is used as fuel for a nearby boiler to produce heat and electricity for Stockholm homes.





Q: What challenges did SVOA face?

A: Keeping the plant clean without a vacuum system would have been both time consuming and required a lot more people. As the plant is highly automated, there is not manpower available to do manual cleaning. We needed a faster, more effective way to maintain cleanliness and ensure the sorting process kept running smoothly.

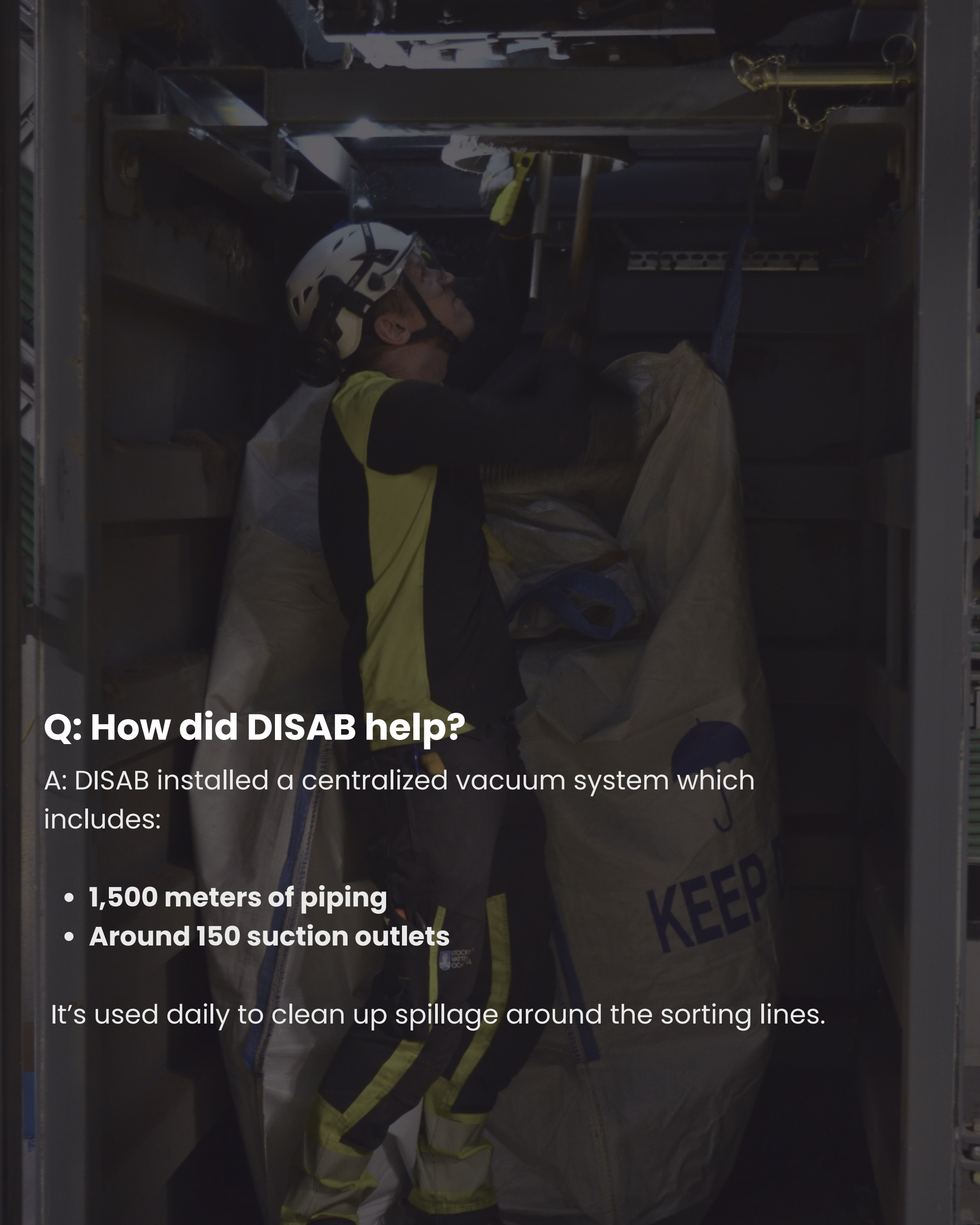




Q: How much material do you vacuum up?

A: Every week, the system removes about 4–5 m³ (roughly 1,000 kg) of waste.

The material is collected in big-bags that are easy to change — typically once a week.

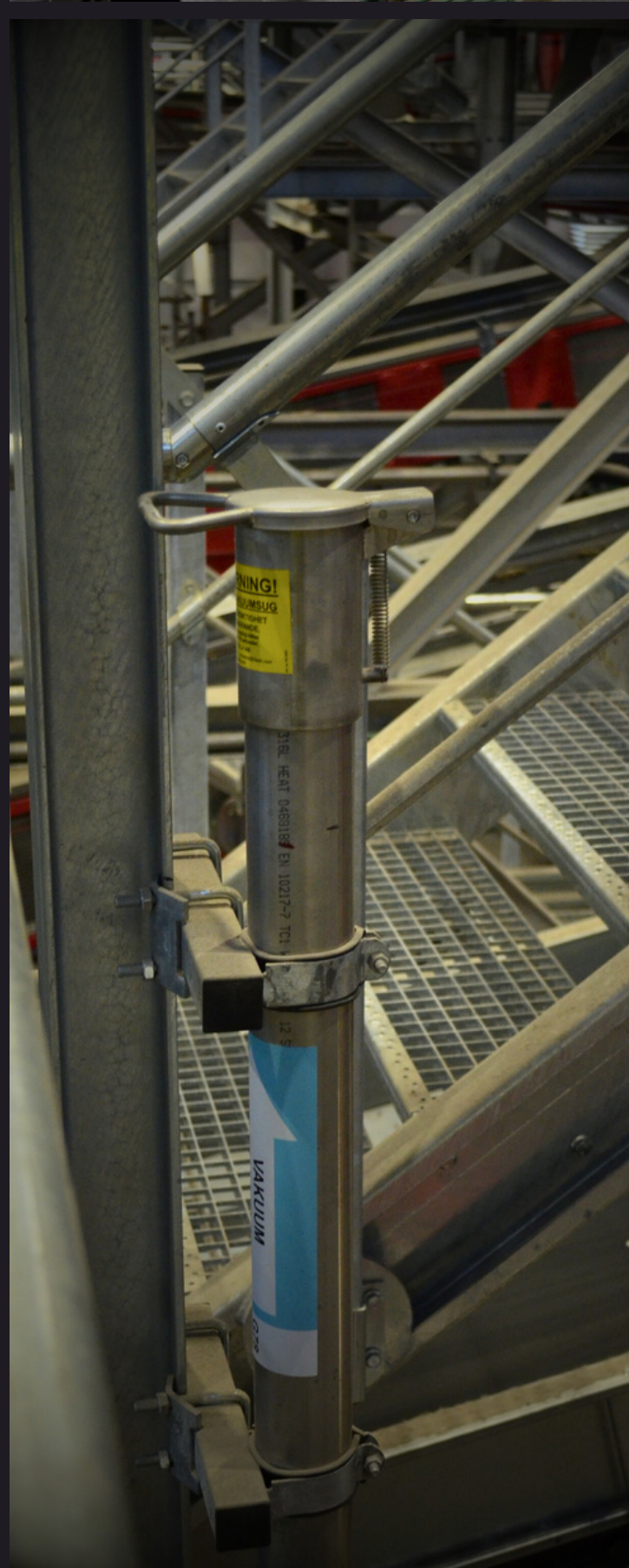
A worker wearing a white helmet and a high-visibility yellow and black vest is working on a large white bag. The worker is looking up at a metal structure above. The bag has a blue umbrella logo and the word "KEEP" in blue letters. The background is dark and industrial.

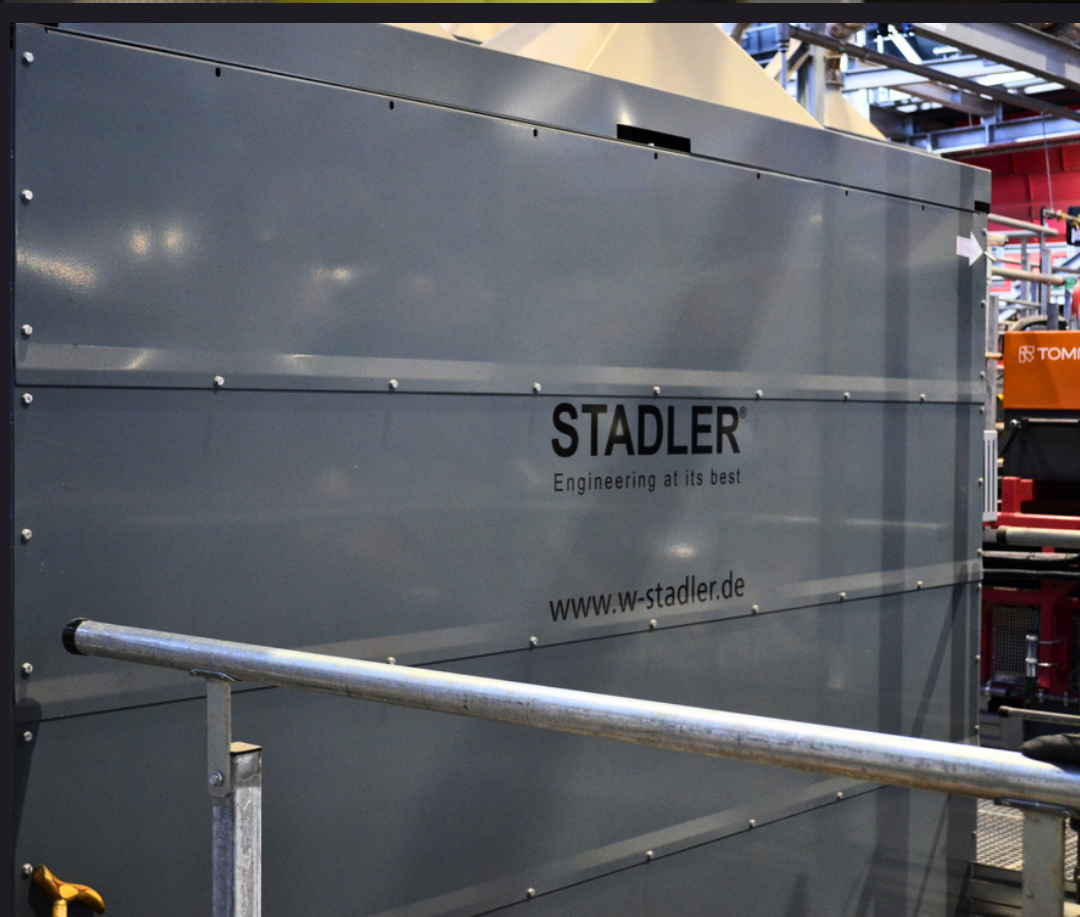
Q: How did DISAB help?

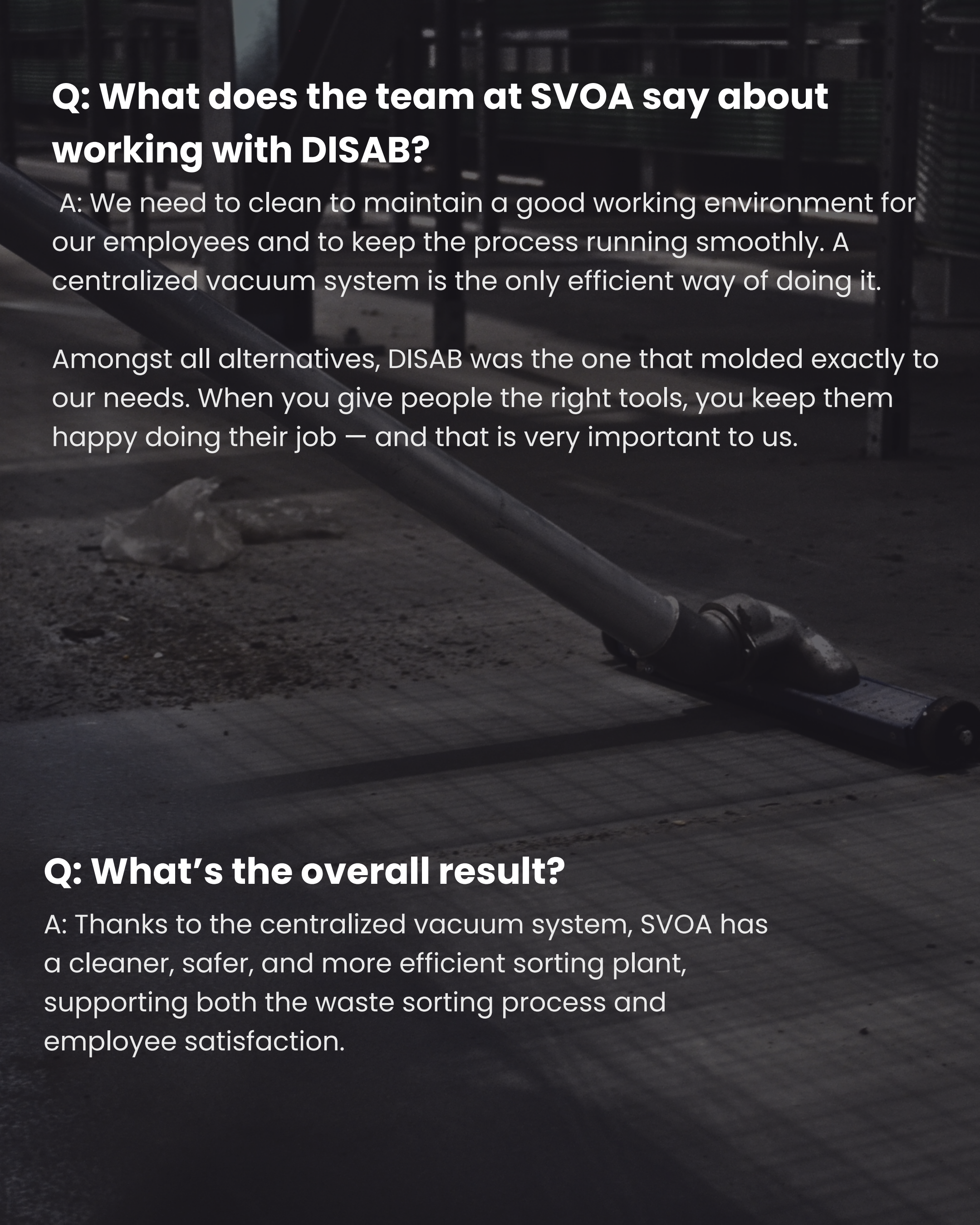
A: DISAB installed a centralized vacuum system which includes:

- **1,500 meters of piping**
- **Around 150 suction outlets**

It's used daily to clean up spillage around the sorting lines.







Q: What does the team at SVOA say about working with DISAB?

A: We need to clean to maintain a good working environment for our employees and to keep the process running smoothly. A centralized vacuum system is the only efficient way of doing it.

Amongst all alternatives, DISAB was the one that molded exactly to our needs. When you give people the right tools, you keep them happy doing their job — and that is very important to us.

Q: What's the overall result?

A: Thanks to the centralized vacuum system, SVOA has a cleaner, safer, and more efficient sorting plant, supporting both the waste sorting process and employee satisfaction.