



Luminex Corporation, Austin, TX

Lab Results Demonstrate the Value of nora[®] Rubber Flooring

As one of the nation's leading biotechnology companies, Luminex Corporation, is growing quickly, expanding into new and different markets each year. In response to this rapid growth, the company recently expanded its headquarters in Austin, TX, moving the marketing and technical operations groups into 20,000 square feet of renovated office space on the Luminex campus.

As plans for the new space took shape, sustainability guided many of the design decisions. "We tried to limit our choices to sustainable materials," said Kendel Martin, director of financial reporting and facilities at Luminex. "The millwork, for example, is reclaimed wood from a barn in Iowa. We installed energy efficient lighting, and we used moveable walls so the space is reconfigurable. Sustainability also influenced our choice of floor coverings, including rubber flooring from nora[®] in our labs and telephone and server room."

The two labs Martin referenced serve very different purposes. In the Field Service Depot, technicians repair or upgrade the company's biological testing instruments, while the Field Service Training Lab is used to train Luminex customers in the use of the instruments they purchase.

However, the floor covering requirements in both labs are identical and led Megan Moshier, designer with Studio 8 Architects in Austin, to norament[®] grano. "Because static electricity cannot touch the equipment being handled in both labs, it was mandatory that the floor covering possess static dissipative properties," she said.

"We also requested a floor covering that would be easy to clean and resistant to scuffs," added Martin. "Our technicians regularly work on very expensive instruments, so they shouldn't be worrying about dropping something else that will stain the floor or be difficult to clean up. According to our janitorial crew, the nora floors have responded to the simplest and easiest maintenance practices, eliminating the need to use wax and strippers and the chemicals associated with them."



Durability was also important, because the floor covering needed to stand up to forklift traffic that regularly moves large crates containing instruments and parts from the nearby loading dock into the labs. “They constantly wheel things in and out of the labs, often using forklifts,” explained Moshier. “Unfortunately, the epoxy that covered the floors of the old labs did not hold up to these heavy loads. It just wore down. So, we needed to try something that was going to offer greater resistance to heavy loads. The grano offered a good alternative that not only is durable, but also provides comfort to those who stand on it for long periods of time.”

According to Moshier, the appearance of the floor also tied into her design scheme for the building. “The entire space is very industrial, with exposed ceilings and a play on gray tones. We selected two colors in the norament grano line – Hematite and Dalmatian Jasper – that blended with other finishes, and the floor’s random speckled design introduced a bit of playfulness into the overall design that we feel inspires creativity.”

According to Martin, the look of the floor was extremely important, especially in the training lab. “With the exception of the instructor, all of the people who use that lab are clients,” she said. “For many of them, the lab is the only area of the company that they see. It’s the face of Luminex. Therefore, although the area must be very functional to support our instruments, it also needs to be extremely attractive, right down to the floor.”

Martin approved Moshier’s recommendation to use nora floor covering in the Luminex project, much to Moshier’s delight. “The installation went smoothly and the results are just great,” said Moshier. “I was so impressed that nora provided installation training to the flooring contractor, Intertech Flooring. They made sure the installer knew the right way to lay the floor, and then they followed up with the client on initial cleaning and maintenance instructions.”

Dixon Matlock, vice president of Austin operations for Intertech, agreed. “The Luminex installation went well. nora is willing to send their technical people to a jobsite to make sure everything gets off on the right foot. That’s the sign of a really good company. In this particular installation, several of our people got certified on the product and adhesive they were installing as a result of the training nora provided.”

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“We’re really happy with the results,” said Martin. “It looks great, we know it will last and it supports our goal to create a sustainable work environment that increases performance and allows for flexibility.”

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 Director of Financial
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