
Tarkett Sports, a global leader in innovative and sustainable solutions for sports surfaces, is pleased to announce the installation of Desso GrassMaster®, its popular natural reinforced grass pitch technology, at the Stade de France in Paris.

The Desso system allows for top-level games and events as the pitch recovers fast thanks to the reinforced root zone. As Stade de France is used by both the French National Football team and the French Rugby Union, the pitch will immediately serve a dual purpose. The first game took place this weekend when the stadium hosted the opening game of the Six Nations, France vs. Italy.

To be aptly prepared, Stade de France selected Desso GrassMaster® to reinforce their natural grass pitch. The newest installation will be used as the pitch for the EURO 2016 finals. Just weeks from now, Stade de France will be the centrepiece of this European championship hosting the opening match and other group stages, a round of 16, quarterfinals and the finals on July 10th.

The Desso pitch is a 100% natural grass pitch reinforced by 20 million artificial fibers. Desso GrassMaster is the preferred playing surface in the Premier League, NFL, football & rugby world cups and other important competitions. Many players are already familiar with the system. More than 70% of the UK Premier League Clubs play on a Desso GrassMaster® pitch.

In France, Desso GrassMaster® is already installed at Paris Saint-Germain, the resident club of the Parc des Princes. Stade de France is the 600th Desso GrassMaster® pitch.

Alexandra Boutelier, General Director of Stade de France, stated: “Stade de France hosts outstanding sportive events. Each year, the France national rugby union team and France national football team come to play international matches and major national football and rugby finals. Hosting these exceptional games, Stade de France wanted to endow a comparable playground with best international references, allowing athletes to perform in the best conditions they deserve.”

Eric Daliere, President of Tarkett Sports, stated: “Being selected to equip Stade de France’s playing surface is both a great honour and a major milestone for Tarkett Sports. The use of our Desso GrassMaster® technology for such a prestigious sporting venue affirms our position as a premier supplier for sport surfaces. The Stade de France, newly equipped with our advanced hybrid grass technology, will welcome this year high-profile events such as the European Football Championship EURO 2016 and the Six Nations tournament. This achievement has been made possible through hard work and commitment from our team and our customers.”

About Desso GrassMaster® Technology:
The system consists of a 100% natural grass surface into which artificial fibers are injected 18cm deep, in a grid of 2x2cm. The ingenuity lies beneath the surface as the grass roots entwine with the fibers, thus anchoring the pitch. This results in a consistent playing surface with tremendous stability. A recent study indicates that 95 out of 100 GrassMaster® pitches had the optimum playing stability thanks to a high infiltration rate, with 3 times more drainage capacity than other hybrid systems or regular natural grass.
The memory lane of Desso GrassMaster® since 1989.
Top clubs and stadium: In UK, Arsenal FC, Manchester City, Manchester United, Wembley; in Germany, VFL Wolfsburg, Bayern München; in Russia, Lokomotiv Moscow, CSKA Moscow; in Italy, Inter Milan and AC Milan; in Brazil Grêmio Porto Alegrense; in France, PSG,... and now Stade de France.

About Tarkett
Tarkett is a global leader in innovative and sustainable solutions for flooring and sports surfaces. Offering a wide range of products including vinyl, linoleum, carpet, rubber, wood & laminate, synthetic turf and athletic tracks, the Group serves customers in more than 100 countries worldwide. With 12,000 employees and 34 industrial sites, Tarkett sells 1.3 million square meters of flooring every day, for hospitals, schools, housing, hotels, offices, stores and sports fields. Committed to sustainable development, the Group has implemented an eco-innovation strategy and promotes circular economy. Tarkett’s net sales of 2.4 billion euros in 2014 are balanced between Europe, North America and the region comprising CIS countries, APAC & LATAM. Tarkett is listed on Euronext Paris (compartment A, ticker TKTT, ISIN: FR0004188670). www.tarkett.com

About Tarkett Sports
Tarkett Sports offers a comprehensive portfolio of sports flooring solutions: FieldTurf and Desso Sports artificial and hybrid turf for baseball, American football, soccer, rugby and golf; Beynon running tracks for outdoor and indoor surfaces; synthetic and hardwood flooring for basketball; floor protection and covering systems for gymnasium and weight room, for volleyball, squash and racquetball courts. Desso Sports has installed more than 60 million m² of artificial and hybrid grass worldwide at both amateur and professional clubs.

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