

Entering the Guinness Book of Records with Layher

GÜGLINGEN-EIBENSACH. Snow-capped mountain peaks glistening in the sun – an image that probably pops into many people's minds when they think about downhill skiing events. So the venue of the "F I S WORLD CUP ALPINE PROMOTION EVENT MOSCOW 2009", held in early January, was all the more unusual: at this event to advertise the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, 14 world class skiers and two invited Russian champions competed in a parallel slalom – in the middle of Russia's capital, in front of the impressive main building of the Moscow State University. The partners of the International Ski Federation (FIS) for the organisation of this event were the Russian Alpine Ski And Snowboard Federation (RASSF) and the NEW LEAGUE Sport Club – the latter also being the instigator of a further remarkable structure: the moveable ski ramp built for this event also puts in the shade anything previously seen. At 37 meters it's wide enough for two parallel downhill slaloms, besides being 150 meters long and 56 meters high – that makes it a candidate for the Guinness Book of Records.

When the order was placed for this unique structure, the priority factors were flexibility in the use of the material and the capacity to deliver. The scaffolding system for the ski ramp, which will be used in February and March in other freestyle and snowboard competitions, had to be quick to assemble and dismantle, and yet very strong. This was where Layher Allround equipment was able to demonstrate its versatility stemming from its unique connection system, with the Allround connector being used to make up to eight connections with variable angles on a single plane. Another deciding factor was the high strength of the system: since the ski ramp was built on high ground, the Vorobyovy hills, it was exposed to high wind loads. In addition, there were stringent requirements

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placed on the design snow load for every snow type. This load was 1,000 kg/m², and it really called for a very small and hence more expensive grid configuration of 1.09 x 2.07 m. To permit building with the larger grid size of 2.07 x 2.07 m, Layher's planners had a trick up their sleeve: they halved the load introduction surface, which is larger for this grid size, by inserting double rosettes in the transverse direction, i.e. two Allround standards, each connected using a double wedge coupler. To pass the loads from the ramp superstructure into these standards, a special part was also designed and manufactured at short notice. A service for the customer where an experienced team is always there to devise tailored solutions. A further important factor for this major order, which required a total of 1,300 tons of material, was availability of the material at short notice. Thanks to flexible production capacities and ample stocks, Layher is able to make delivery and provide its customers with the crucial degree of flexibility.

Soon after the order was placed, nearly 70 trucks set off from Güglingen in Swabia for the Russian capital, where more than 40 men worked for less than two months, starting in early November, to assemble the ski ramp on schedule, aided not least by the precision fit of the Allround system – thanks to certified and high-quality production in Germany. Entire sections were preassembled on the ground and easily fitted to the structure using a crane, despite the many vertical elements. The only thing that Layher's specialists for scaffolding systems were unable to manage was the weather – so the customers used snow all the way from Siberia, brought to Moscow in around 100 trucks from the Kemerovo region 3,500 kilometers away. That way the event was a complete success: with more than 30,000 cheering fans – and a German victory!

Wilhelm Layher GmbH & Co. KG from Güglingen-Eibensbach is Europe's largest manufacturer of system scaffolding. Founded in 1945, the company now employs over 1,100 people internationally: 700 in Germany and a further 400 at its 30 subsidiaries on five continents.

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For further information on the company and on the versatile scaffolding systems made by Layher, visit www.layher.com.

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