



MEDIA INFORMATION

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Leicester based Polytan keeps Birmingham on track for Olympics

Athletes competing in the 2012 Olympic Games will warm up for their gold medal bids on the newly refurbished Polytan track at Birmingham's Alexander Stadium.

The track, located in Perry Park in Perry Barr, Birmingham, will be the base for the USA Track and Field Olympic Team athletes next year and work will be completed by Polytan Sports Surfaces Ltd later this month.

The £12.25 million redevelopment at Alexander Stadium will see a new 5,000-seater stand - taking the capacity to 12,800 with scope for temporary seating subject to demand. Facilities include an eight-lane track with a ten lane straight.

Polytan's polyurethane surfacing systems provide international standard athletics tracks in main stadiums around the world, as well as for competition standard running tracks and indoor tracks. Large stadium tracks include those certified IAAF Class 1 and Class 2 and surfaces are also available in a variety of colours.

"We re-surfaced the track in 2000 and, as a result of the success of that work we were selected to resurface the track in advance of the Olympics. We've upgraded both the track and the field event areas to meet IAAF Class 2 specifications," says Polytan's UK managing director Andy Shaw.

Alexander Stadium hosts the National Championships each year and at least one other major athletics competition on an annual basis. It has also staged the Amateur Athletics Association Championships and is home to one of the UK's best known athletics clubs, the Birchfield Harriers.

“A unique feature of Polytan’s surfaces is that all raw materials are developed in the company’s own research and development laboratories. All surface systems are manufactured in the company’s own factories and then installed by its own directly employed workforce,” adds Andy Shaw.

“Long-lasting and highly durable, the track surfaces have energy-boosting elasticity. They are also abrasion resistant and encourage peak performance from international standard athletes.”

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Notes for editors

- 1 Leicestershire-based Polytan Sports Surfaces is the leader in the installation of synthetic sports surfaces in the UK. First established in 1991, the company has won contracts for indoor and outdoor athletic tracks, football pitches, multi-sports surfaces and synthetic grass pitches. These include the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre, Birmingham’s Alexander Stadium, Liverpool FC Training Centre, Loughborough University’s Paula Radcliffe Stadium and Aberdeen Sports Village.
- 2 The installation of Polytan’s surfaces is carried out by a team with considerable experience within the synthetic surfacing industry and a high standard of materials and workmanship ensures a continuity of quality and expertise on all projects set.
- 3 Polytan Sports Surfaces UK is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Polytan GmbH in Burgheim, Germany, a company involved in the sports surfacing market, both in Europe and throughout the world for over 40 years. They also manufacture and blend ‘in house’ the various polyurethanes and binders used in the running track construction.
- 4 All sports surfaces available from the Polytan range are designed to comply with the relevant international standards of IAAF, FIH, and FIFA, and employ the services of independent test houses to confirm these requirements (Labosport, MSC, Sportslabs, etc.) throughout the world.

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For press and media enquiries, please contact -

Simon Brian
The Encore Organisation
1152 Melton Road
Syston
Leicestershire
LE7 2HB

Telephone 0116 269 6400

Email Ashley@encoreorganisation.co.uk

For further information about Polytan's activities in the UK contact -

Andy Shaw
Managing Director
Polytan Sports Surfaces Ltd
2 Hayhill Industrial Estate
Sileby Road
Barrow Upon Soar
Leicestershire
LE12 8LD

T +44 (0)845 224 1416

F +44 (0)845 224 1617