

COVER & PROTECT

Terraplas describe how, following a rigorous selection process, Stade de France has chosen terratrak plus® to cover and protect their running track, which hosts the IAAF World Athletics Championship.



Consortium Stade de France – the owner/operator of the 81,338-capacity **Stade de France** – undertook months of intensive trials and tests of the many different products on the market to find the optimum solution to cover and protect their **Mondo** running track. Following this rigorous process the decision was made to purchase a *terratrak plus*® system, with **Terraplas** supervising the first install in February 2016 and providing training to the Stade de France team.

As the home of the French national football team, this iconic venue was built to be the centrepiece for the **1998 FIFA World Cup**, and has since been central to the **1999** and **2007 Rugby World Cups**, as well as **UEFA's Champions League** finals. It will again be the focus of football attention when it hosts the final of **UEFA's Euro 2016** championships this summer, as well as a number of group matches and a quarter final.

Although football and Rugby Union are the main sporting events at Stade de France, once a year it becomes the arena for the **IAAF World Athletics Championship**. This means that the running track is partially covered for much of the year with retractable seating, which leaves the running track vulnerable to damage.

SAFE & SECURE

For this reason the stadium needed a protective cover system that was capable of being fitted for lengthy periods without the risk of damage to the track. They also needed a system that would allow full flexibility for access to and from the playing area, as well as the ability to be driven on by heavy duty vehicles, like cranes, forklifts and trucks. Consortium Stade de France have therefore replaced their old cover system with *terratrak plus*®, which fulfils all of their requirements and means they can quickly and easily remove it for athletics, then re-fit to go back to football/rugby or concert mode.

Terraplas laid a layer of geotextile underneath the *terratrak plus*® to give a cushion effect, which also allows the track to breathe. Use of the geotextile considerably reduces any chance of disease building up on the track, which would cause discolouration damage.

terratrak plus®, which was introduced by Terraplas in 2010, has been phenomenally successful, selling over 140,000m² (1.5 million sq ft) to date. It has been sold in the UK, Europe, USA, Australia, South Africa and South America, with client venues including such iconic stadiums as **Wembley National Stadium**, **Principality Stadium** (formerly **Millennium Stadium**), and now **Stade de France**.

Terraplas' Robert Else, advised: *"There is no doubt that the terratrak plus® system is quickly becoming the 'go to' product to cover and protect running tracks at multi-use stadiums around the globe, as well as being recognised as the 'world's best turf protection system'."* ■

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