



A winter's tale at Willingen

Snow-making systems at Willingen work to perfection



With an investment of 18 million Euros in the development of its skiing areas, Willingen in northern Hesse has taken its place in the top league of German winter sports resorts. Since the winter season of 2008, the snow-making installation has been running perfectly and has been making this idyllic venue for the Ski-Jumping World Cup in the Waldecker Land independent of Frau Holda, who, according to Germanic folklore, controls the winter weather. The form and scope of the project are unique among German skiing resorts. Snow can be made on all of Willingen's major ski slopes. The infrastructure is designed so that at appropriate temperatures all the main pistes can be given an adequate cover of snow in around 50 hours. "It is our ductile cast iron pipes that see to the smooth flow of the snow-making operation on the ski slopes of the Ettelberg mountain", comments Uwe Strich of BGW's sales office in Thüringen. "We have supplied a total of around 13 kilometres of ductile cast iron pipelines with BLS®/VRS-T® socket joints and cement mortar coatings (ZMU). Together with the operators of the snow-making systems, the community authority at Willingen decided to go for Buderus pipes because there are advantages to them from both the economic and safety points of view. When ductile cast iron pipe systems are being laid, there is no welding work that has to be done out in the field. This means a considerable reduction in installation costs compared with welded pipe systems. The nominal sizes of DN 80 to DN 300 that were used have an allowable operating pressure of at least 64 bars and this means a high level of safety for the snow-making operation." There are five main downhill slopes with a total length of seven kilometres and some 50 modern snow-makers supply them with the coveted snow. Ductile cast iron pipes are also used for snow-making at the big ski jump arena, the Mühlenkopfschanze. This installation showed its reliability repeatedly at this year's FIS Team Tour, which was being held for the first time as part of the Ski-Jumping World Cup. "We took the event as a good reason for demonstrating the high performance of the ductile cast iron pipe system in the snow-making field to representatives of the supply and disposal industry. The systems on the Ettelberg and at the Mühlenkopfschanze ran like clockwork. These are the most important German snow-making projects north of the Alps and we are proud to have done our bit to enhance the quality of the Willingen winter sports resort with our reliable cast iron pipes and the high standard of our applications engineering advice," declares Karl-Wilhelm Römer of BGW's sales office in Kassel.