

Snow for Macedonia ...



Ductile cast iron pipes from TRM for skiing region of Kožuf

The skiing region of Kožuf, which is situated close to the border with Greece, lies at an altitude of 1500 to 2200 meters. A group of private investors has set itself the goal of creating one of the largest, most up-to-date and beautiful ski centres in south-eastern Europe, covering an area of 56 hectares. Every year since 2001 work has been done to expand the ski lifts, the pistes, the snow making installations and the accommodation for the tourists who come here for the skiing. In the first phase of the project, five surface lifts, one six-seater chair lift and three four-seater chair lifts are being built to allow some 13,000 skiing enthusiasts to be kept happy every hour. In addition to this, an all-inclusive ski resort with hotels and apartments will be going up on 55 hectares of land. At the end of the building work there will be 20 pistes – totalling some 60 kilometers in length – of all levels of difficulty waiting to be tamed.

As is the case everywhere in the world, climatic conditions in the mountain region of Macedonia do not guarantee snow with 100% certainty. To ensure the economic

success of the project, snow making installations are therefore an absolute must for the investors.

So – curtain up for Tiroler Röhren- und Metallwerke AG and its ductile cast iron pipes! These have a proven track record for snow making installation and have already demonstrated how high their quality is innumerable times even under extreme conditions.

In the summer of 2008, 2,350 meters of ductile cast iron pipes of nominal sizes from 80 to 200 therefore set out on their journey to the south of Macedonia to be used as supply pipes for the production of artificial snow. Also setting out with them were employees of TRM, to train the local personnel for the laying work. The laying of the pipes proved to be “not exactly easy”, because it was impossible to use any heavy plant in the steep terrain, so for the most part the excavators which were there stood around idle. Sheer muscle was the order of the day! Digging, laying and backfilling – all, or most, of this work had to be done by hand. But thanks to the brawny Macedonians, the ease with

which VRS-T®-joint, with its ability to accept angular deflections of up to 5°, can be laid and the excellent training given by the TRM employees, none of this was any problem.

On completion of the work, Angel Nakov, the director of Ski Kožuf, had some words of praise: “The TRM pipes were the best thing that could have happened to us because the laying work was quick and easy to perform. We were able to do the work with our own personnel because the support we got from the applications engineers from TRM was excellent”.



and for La Thuile in the Aosta Valley

“Espace San Bernardo”, one of Europe’s most beautiful ski resorts, lies in the border region between France and Italy on the San Bernardo massif in the Aosta Valley. The Italian part, La Thuile, where the “Funivie Piccolo San Bernardo” ski-lift company operates, is situated at an altitude of 1441 to 2200 metres and has been a favourite resort for skiing fans since 1948. This was when people still used to swoop down the slopes in knickerbockers doing telemark turns, but it was also the time when the first single-seater chair lift was built in La Thuile and also when no-one had to worry whether there was going to be any snow. But times have changed; knickerbockers have disappeared, telemark turns are gradually coming back into fashion, natural snow occasionally fails to make an appearance, skiing has become a mass sport and it goes without saying that there will be artificial snow.

In Espace San Bernardo there are 37 ski lifts that will take around 55,000 people an hour up to the heights. 74 splendid slopes and a total of 150 kilometres of runs are available. It is well situated as far as transport is concerned – just an hour by car from Turin. It has 276 snow making machines, of both the lance and fan types, which make sure that there is enough snow even when there is not much of the natural variety! So for this cross-border ski resort all one needs is a ski lift pass.

For many years, the operators of the La Thuile ski resort have put their trust in supply pipelines from Tiroler Röhren- und Metallwerke AG. The expansion of snow making facilities is not an area where any fanciful experiments are made and unlike knickerbockers, ductile cast iron pipes have survived every change in ski sport and ski resort operation.

In the past year, TRM supplied a respectable quantity of pipes to the popular ski resort: about 8,600 metres of snow making pipelines of diameters from DN 80 to DN 300 to provide a reliable operating pressure of up to 100 bars were laid without any problems all over the ski resort in a very short time.

The high quality of the cast iron pipes and the simple way in which they can be laid with the tried and tested VRS-T® joint made the decision an easy one for the people responsible. What was also considered very advantageous was the fact that the laying could be done by their own employees. In this way, the TRM pipes not only helped to save on costs, but also safeguarded jobs during the summer months.



People have trusted TRM cast iron pipes in La Thuile for years!

