



The 2014 Winter Olympics at Sochi

TRM is supplying pipes and fittings for the snow-making systems

When Sochi was selected to host the 22nd Winter Olympics on 4 July 2007, the people of this South Russian town on the Black Sea danced in the streets and celebrated with plentiful supplies of “shampanskoye”. Two years later, on 20 May 2009, it was TRM’s turn to celebrate.



The contract to supply 14.6 kilometres of pipeline and 1414 fittings for the snow-making installations at the Olympics venue in the Caucasus was in the bag: the total value of the order was around 1.5 million Euros.

“It is quite clear that this most prestigious of all the 2009/2010 snow-making projects went to us because we are the technological leaders in this field and because, given the large number of fittings required, we were the only supplier who could promise reliable and punctual deliveries,” reports Stefan Sterr, Head of Special Products at TRM, “We can also provide the technical support, and the best references in the market from satisfied customers.” This was crucial for the customer because the snow-making systems at the Olympic ski resort of Rosa Khutor are technologically demanding. This is because the contours of the terrain are steep and winding and the long supply runs to the systems cause high pressure in the pipes. More than 12 billion dollars are going into the provision of infrastructure and the development of sports facilities. At first glance it seems rather strange that winter games are going to be held there. Sochi is lavishly adorned with palm trees, orchids and other exotic plants. The climate is sub-tropical and gives Sochi an average of 200 days of sunshine a year. Look upwards however and it becomes clear where the Olympics are going to be held: the snow-capped peaks are part of the Caucasus Mountains, whose highest mountain, Mount Elbrus, lies at a height of 5642 metres. The skiing resort that Sochi has, Rosa Khutor, is some 40 kilometres from the coast in the Krasnaya Polyana region and from 7 to 23 February 2014 it will be the venue for the Alpine competitions of the Winter Olympics. It will take 60 trucks to transport all the pipes and fittings to the point where they are going to be used in the Caucasus. In June, the first of these trucks, loaded with the consignment scheduled for 2009, set off on their journey of some 2000 kilometres to Krasnaya Polyana. The second consignment will be following next year. The timetable that has to be met is a tight one. The laying work has to be completed by 2010 and completion of the entire system is scheduled for 2011. The test runs will be taking place a year later and in 2013 the Universiade is going to be held as a sort of dress rehearsal for the Winter Olympics.