

1:0 for Alveo Sports Layer

Technical base layer made of Sekisui Alveo polyolefin foam improves artificial turf systems for sports grounds

Lucerne / Switzerland, 28 October 2009 – Whether football, hockey or golf – an optimum playing surface is one of the main prerequisites for achieving outstanding athletic performances and simply enjoying sports. However maintenance for natural grass surfaces is time-consuming and expensive. Modern, technically perfected artificial turf systems offer municipalities, clubs and private sport facility operators a good alternative. Sekisui Alveo, manufacturer of polyolefin foam materials, has developed the technical base layer Alveo Sports Layer in close cooperation with artificial turf manufacturers and sports clubs. This flexible base layer makes artificial turf even easier to care for, less dependent on weather conditions and more durable than natural turf. The base layer from Sekisui Alveo, which is patent pending, is easy to install and offers outstanding playing properties. In addition, it meets the stringent requirements for FIFA 2-Star classification. Besides long service life and durability, this classification also examines playing properties such as the rolling and bounces characteristics of the ball. International games can be held on football pitches with the FIFA 2-Star Certification.



The Alveo Sports Layer (shown in white in the graphic) forms the flexible technical base layer for the layer system between the subbase and artificial grass fibre.

The Alveo Sports Layer forms the flexible base layer of the artificial turf system between the subbase and the grasslike plastic fibres. It is made from crosslinked polyolefin foam with a closed cell structure. On the one hand, this structure provides players excellent ball roll and bounce characteristics thanks to its energy return properties. On the other hand, the technical base layer provides optimum shock absorption. Compared to natural turf or

artificial turf systems without an elastic base layer, jumps and impact are more effectively absorbed, thus providing superior protection for joints. A further advantage of the hard-wearing foam is its excellent resilience: Even when subjected to intensive and continuous use no unevenness occurs as is the case on natural turf. For players this clearly reduces the risk of injury.

Easy installation and maintenance, longer playability

Sports facility operators in particular are not only interested in the playing properties but also in the maintenance of an artificial turf system and its playability. The Alveo Sports Layer can be installed in any weather: The foam sheets are simply and quickly laid on the subbase of a sports ground. The flexible base layer is suitable for all types of artificial turf fibre. Unlike the older material such as granulate made from used tyres, the hardness and coloration of the foam sheets can be individually adapted. Compared to natural turf, the follow-up costs of artificial turf systems are considerably lower as the systems render elaborate maintenance unnecessary, such as mowing, intensive watering, fertilisation or repairing weather damage. On average, natural turf provides optimum playing conditions for only three months in the year. By contrast, artificial turf, which is not dependent on the seasons, offers the same excellent playing conditions throughout the year. Added to this, Alveo Sports Layer also improves heat insulation. Playing surfaces that otherwise could not be used because of frost, can now be played on all year round.

Generally, the closed-cell foams from Sekisui Alveo are particularly resistant: since they scarcely absorb any moisture they do not offer a medium for fungi or bacteria growth. Rain water simply flows off through perforations in the Alveo Sports Layer and into the drainage system.



Alveo Sports Layer is laid on the subbase on the football pitch.



The artificial turf is rolled out after the foam sheets have been bonded together.



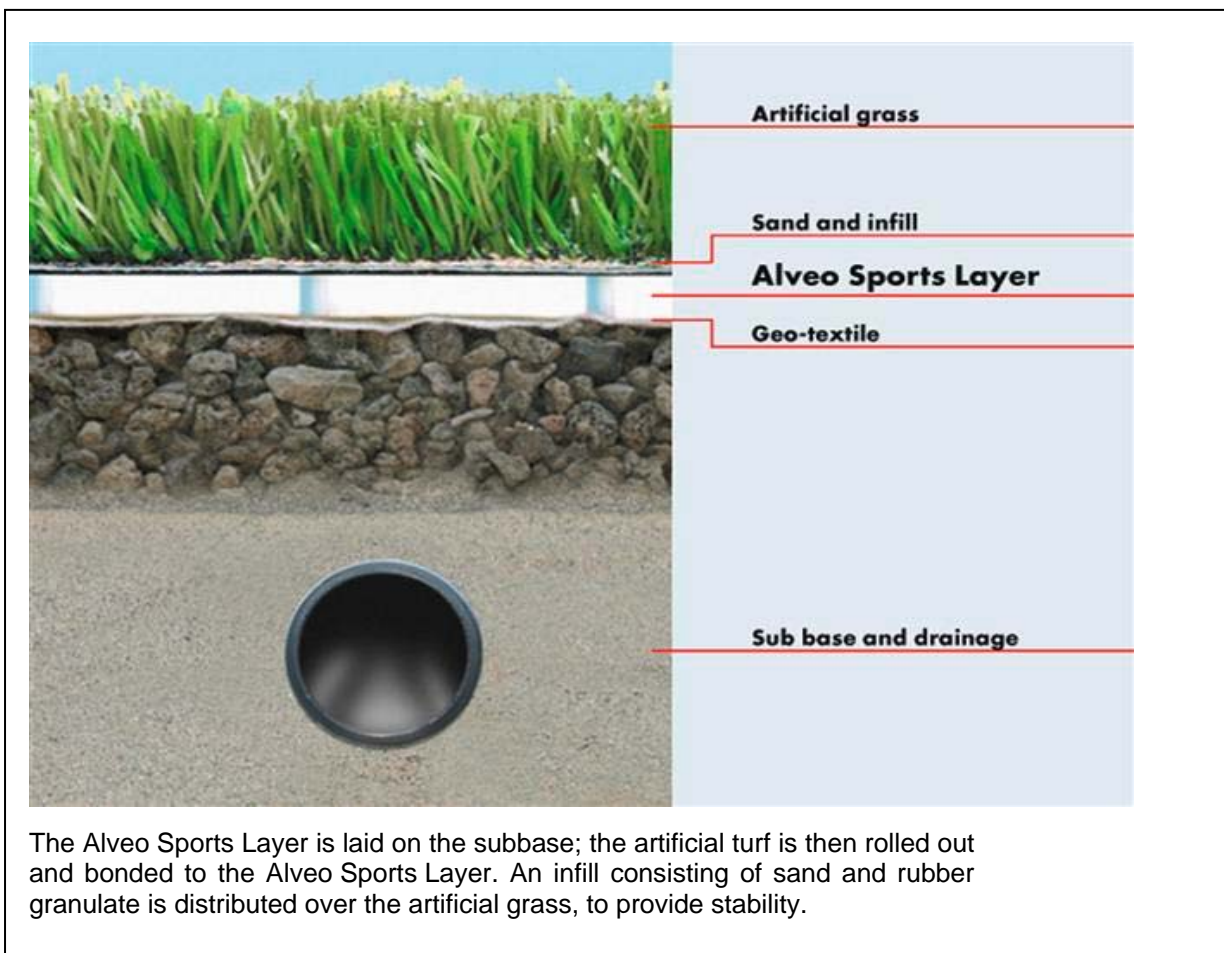
Finally, the rubber-sand mixture is distributed over the artificial turf providing resilience and stability.

“With Alveo Sports Layer we offer our customers a high-performance, durable and, thanks to its long service life, cost-effective solution that further enhances existing artificial turf systems”, explains Paul van Rheenen, Global Market Manager Artificial Turf. “We are particularly pleased about the praise we receive from athletes.”

Text length:

3,870 characters (including blanks)

Infobox: Schematic structure of an artificial turf system with Alveo Sports Layer



Infobox: The history of artificial turf

1966

The first artificial turf is laid in the AstroDom in Houston/USA.

1976

The use of artificial turf is approved for the first time in the Olympic Games in the discipline of hockey.

1980s

Sand-filled artificial turf systems are used primarily for winter football training as well as in school and mass sports facilities as a substitute for unavailable natural turf surfaces.

1990s

Artificial turf systems undergo continuous further development – their acceptance increases with official sports committees. The decisive factor in this development is that improved surfaces mean the players no longer need to fear injuries such as friction burns or skin abrasions. In addition, the artificial turf exhibits noticeable flexibility and the infill no longer sprays out on contact.

2004 – 2005/2006

The governing football associations FIFA and UEFA approve artificial turf pitches for championship matches on the condition that the artificial turf systems meet their quality criteria.

Today

The trend in stadium construction is going more and more towards stadia with fully covered spectator areas. It is often necessary to replace natural turf several times per season as its growth is restricted under these conditions of reduced light and air circulation. Added to this playability is severely limited: even under good weather conditions and with intensive care, natural turf should only be played on for 12 to 15 hours per week. Otherwise the turf may be damaged, thus increasing the risk of injury to players.

In many regions of the world, optimum grass surfaces are not available due to the prevailing climatic conditions.

Artificial turf systems are therefore recognised and used more and more often as an effective alternative.

Text length:

1,718 characters (including blanks)

Sekisui Alveo AG – Company Portrait

Sekisui Alveo AG with head office in Lucerne, Switzerland, develops and produces cross-linked polyolefin foams, which are used in: Adhesive Coating, Automotive, Construction incl. Artificial Turf as well as Industrial and Consumer Goods. The solutions are developed in close cooperation with processing companies and manufacturers, and tested and approved in the company's Application Services Laboratory. Sekisui Alveo is owned by Sekisui Chemical Co. Ltd., which, with its globally active subsidiaries, serves approximately 50% of the global market with cross-linked polyolefin foams.

For more information please contact:

Sekisui Alveo AG

Irene Lucas

Corporate Communications

Bahnhofstrasse 7

CH – 6002 Lucerne

Tel.: +41 (0) 41 228 92 92

Fax: +41 (0) 41 228 92 00

E-Mail: communications@SekisuiAlveo.com

www.SekisuiAlveo.com

TEXT-COM GmbH

Karolin Friele

PR-Consultant

Ziegelhüttenweg 4

D – 65232 Taunusstein

Tel.: +49 (0) 6128 85 37 55

Fax: +49 (0) 6128 85 37 59

E-Mail: Karolin.Friele@text-com.de

www.TEXT-COM.de