

Stade Océane, Le Havre, France

Elite Stadium Receives an Irrigation Upgrade With Help From Rain Bird®

Located in Le Havre, France, the Stade Océane houses the oldest professional football club in the country, Le Havre AC. With more than 25,000 seats, this is the largest stadium in Normandy. The club is comprised of some of the most famous football players to date, previously crowned Ligue 2 champions before moving up to Ligue 1. With multiple training fields along the main stadium, the Stade Océane produces more energy than it consumes, making it the first positive-energy stadium in France.

The Challenge

The Stade Océane has gone years without a central control irrigation system, and with the club's advancement to Ligue 1, field specifications and playing comfort are vital. With these new needs, Sparfel, the company managing the stadium and training center, plans to address them directly. To prepare for the future, Sparfel also wanted to implement a system to measure water conservation, continuing its environmental promise.

The Solution

Sparfel reached out to Rain Bird to find solutions to complement the irrigation already installed on the site. With the help of Rain Bird representatives, the club's contractor, Paro, became well-versed in the IQ™ system. From there, Paro demonstrated the systems usage to Sparfel, who was quickly accepting of its implementation.

Not only did the demonstration win over Sparfel, but a nearly Ligue 2 Club that the company has worked with in the past also uses IQ™4.

Key objectives

- ✓ Automate irrigation
- ✓ Turf consistency
- ✓ Meet field specifications of Ligue 1 Clubs
- ✓ Conserve water



Products used

- IQ™4 System
- NCC ETHERNET Cartridge
- 8005 Rotors
- Golf 950 Rotor

Approach

With the main system happily decided, the real work began with the installation of the new products. A NCC ETHERNET Cartridge was added, allowing Sparfel to integrate IQ™4. IQ™4 has been helping sparfel save time, be proactive, and manage irrigation in other stadiums. In the future, the company plans to connect a flow-reading controller with IQ™4 to know exactly how much water is being used at any given moment and shut irrigation off or turn it back on with the click of a button.

8005 Rotors were used as well, perfectly meeting the football federation's standards. These rotors have three nozzle ports on the head, are durable, and are very easy to adjust. Although a sod cup is not needed for these rotors, Sparfel decided to use one to ensure consistency and safety for the athletes competing. Alongside the 8005 Rotors, the Golf 950 rotor was used for long throw capabilities.

With these new products, the Stade Océane stadium has been able to thrive, minimizing stress within management.

Results

With system testing and team training complete, the newly implemented platform allows everything to be done remotely. Not only is the system so easy to use that even the coach and club players have used it, but IQ™4 was smoothly integrated, addressing Sparfel's desire for a quick yet effective solution. IQ™4 has done its job of creating both an accessible and simple result for the club. In the coming season, everyone will have further training on the system, as a happy football club equals a happy life.

