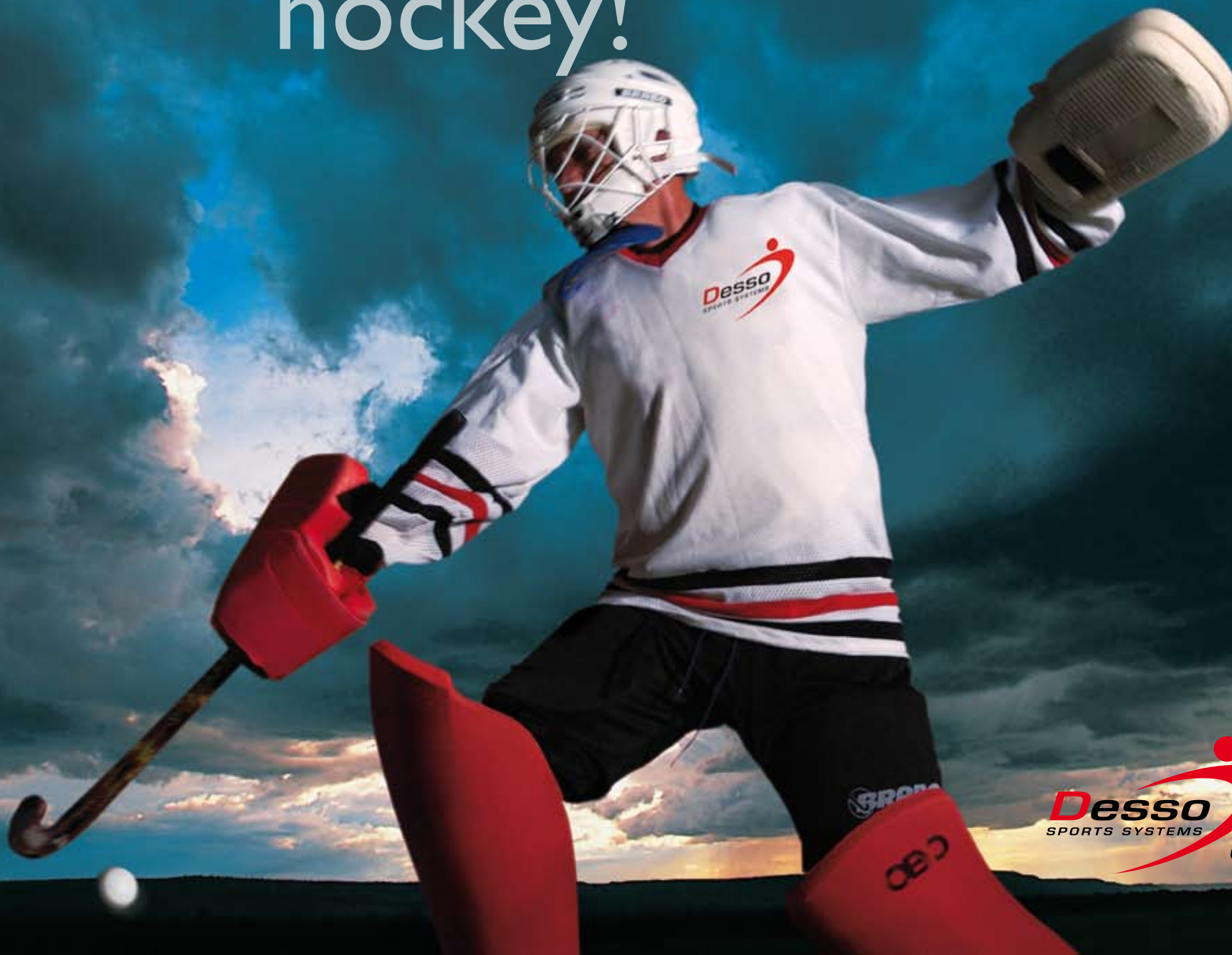


Let's play  
hockey!



*engineered to move you*



## Our core business: **the artificial turf pitch**

How to create a surface that provides optimum sports conditions which endure over the longest period of time, and at a price accessible to a wide range of people? This is the question that Desso Sports Systems has been answering professionally since 1980. Our core business is the design of artificial turf fields for football, hockey, American football, rugby, tennis and other sports. You could say that we are the masters in our field ... from research & development to production, installation and aftercare. As the European pioneer in the hockey pitch sector we have quickly become an innovative leader, so that today we are the natural first choice for enterprising clubs and management. With more than 45 million m<sup>2</sup> of installed pitches, and a close relationship with our clients and users, we have a solid basis for our continuous product improvements. Our highly motivated Desso Sports personnel work closely with our certified partners to ensure that the best result is achieved. And, of course, we are not content to stand idly on the sidelines – we continue to break new ground in the field of artificial turf technology.





## Striving for perfection

Modern hockey without artificial turf is almost inconceivable. Until the 1970s, hockey was played exclusively on natural grass. Then American clubs increasingly began to make the transition to nylon pitches. This evolution of the game was followed with great enthusiasm by the artificial turf pioneers at Desso. In 1980, Desso developed the first sand-filled artificial turf pitch in Europe. It heralded the dawn of an exciting new age. With better ball control and grip, the game got faster and improved in both technique and quality. The appeal of hockey progressed in leaps and bounds for players and spectators alike. Through the use of artificial turf, hockey was lifted to a higher level. Initially, hockey on artificial turf was limited to the traditionally strong hockey countries, and to elite clubs with large budgets. Quickly, however, playing on artificial turf became popular with an increasing number of clubs.

Desso Sports Systems focussed on these new developments in the game. Finding the right solution for every club, at every level, with every budget: that was Desso's mission. And it still is. Desso has been involved in the development of artificial turf hockey pitches from the very beginning. In **1986**, we installed the first fully synthetic hockey pitch, Desso Sportilux, for HC Rotterdam. In **1997**, we introduced the first nylon pitch: Desso ActionTurf, for HC Den Bosch. In **1998**, the Hockey World Cup in Utrecht was played on that type of field. It was **2002** when we introduced our Desso Trophy, the first semi-water pitch. At Desso, we continue to strive for perfection. Artificial turf is our passion, and has been for nearly 30 years. Over this time we have gained a great deal of expertise and experience and, for us, the developments never stop. Ambitious clubs can continue to count on us in the future.

## Water-based pitches



HCKZ - Jan Deknatel

## Water-based pitches : for elite hockey

HCKZ - Jaap Nauta



Top-level hockey has become unimaginable without the water-based pitch: a stable artificial turf pitch with a fast surface, and uniform playing characteristics such as predictable ball behaviour and optimal grip. These characteristics remain constant, even after years of fast rushes and short striking hits.

Playing on a water-based field that has just been watered is a unique experience. The pitch not only feels soft, but is comfortable to walk on and is pleasantly cool in the summer. Water-based pitches are outstanding for the slides that make elite hockey so exciting. All young players want to train and play on a water-based pitch, and this makes it easier for clubs to attract new talent and to keep young, promising players.

More and more clubs are realising the value of ecological innovation. Water-based pitches that retain moisture can keep water use down, thus allowing elite hockey to be played in locations where water is scarce. This is the sort of challenge facing Desso's R&D specialists, who have nearly 30 years of experience in developing and installing artificial turf hockey pitches.







HCKZ - Jaap Nauta



## The best just got better

**Desso Sportilux** is a water-based surface that is widely considered to be the ultimate system for elite hockey. It is also acknowledged as being an artificial turf pitch on which competitions at the highest level can be played, as indicated both by the FIH Global Quality Approved label, and the many FIH tournaments that have been played on Desso Sportilux since 1987. The level, uniform surface is ideal for intense matches, precise ball control and technical refinement. The grip is firm, and slides feel natural thanks to the combination of the durable polypropylene fibre, the dense grass structure and the fibrillation pattern, all of which serve to hold the water on the surface. On Desso Sportilux, hockey players can take full advantage of three-dimensional play, with the added bonus of being able to chip the ball.

For teams who do not want to sacrifice any of the playing characteristics, we have developed **Desso ActionTurf**. Desso ActionTurf is a pitch made of 100% nylon, which gives players precise ball control, fast play and makes 3D skills possible. Nothing out-performs nylon for speed and ball-roll – this material has been specially developed for international elite hockey.

Can it get any better than that? Yes it can, and the **new, patented Desso Dynamix** is the proof. Desso Dynamix is the result of developments that bring together the best of both worlds. Desso has combined the excellent playing characteristics of nylon with the durability and grip of polypropylene fibre. The way this surface handles water is the most striking plus point: the water layer on the pitch stays virtually constant throughout the game. This ensures that the playing characteristics also remain constant and allows 3D skills as well.

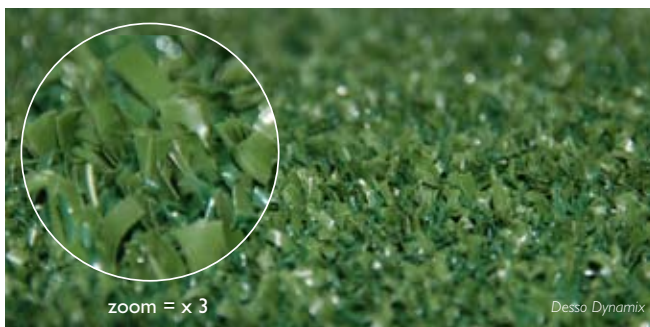
One watering session is all that is required for the entire game. Desso Dynamix is therefore the logical choice for the investor or club wanting to reduce both their energy costs and environmental footprint. It's also ideal in areas where water is scarce, but clubs still want to train and play on a high quality water-based pitch.



Champions Trophy 2001, HC Rotterdam



World Cup Hockey 1998, Galgenwaard



zoom = x 3

Desso Dynamix



Semi-water pitches



## Talent deserves a good pitch



Desso Sports Systems has always been at the forefront of the revival of hockey, from artificial turf pitches for elite hockey through to surface solutions for the more amateur levels. With such experience behind it, Desso has learned much about the needs of those clubs which are ambitious and concerned with quality, but do not have the resources to purchase a relatively expensive water-based pitch.

Desso believes that ambition should be encouraged and that, where possible, budgetary constraints should not unduly influence the level at which a club can play. Hockey is one of the few sports where the playing surface is an important influence on both the game, and the level of technical skill. What could be more motivating than to be able to train on the same quality pitch on which elite matches are played? With hockey continuing to grow in popularity, and young talent streaming in and developing, the quality of the field is critical: a good pitch can help keep talent in the club, rather than seeing it move elsewhere for better facilities.

For those ambitious clubs, Desso has developed the semi-water pitch: a quality surface that has all the benefits of a water-based pitch – it is even FIH-compliant – but at a more attractive price.



## For those who want to have an edge

The **Desso Trophy** semi-water pitch illustrates Desso's mission in hockey – to develop a surface that can satisfy a hockey club's ambitions and budget. It evolved through a winning combination of years of experience and expertise, plus innovative technologies and ideas.

For an attractive price, growing numbers of ambitious clubs can acquire a quality pitch on which elite matches can be played. Desso Trophy is the semi-water surface that comes closest to elite quality, with its fast ball-roll, outstanding grip and efficient shock absorption. When water is applied, thanks to the special turf configuration and the curled fibrillation pattern of the polypropylene fibre, the moisture is retained on the surface for a long time. This preserves the playing characteristics and allows sliding tackles on the pitch.

Desso Trophy can be quickly installed onto an existing sub-base which makes it a perfect solution for quick refurbishment. If used with a sprinkler installation, the pitch takes on the quality and playing characteristics of a water-based pitch.

**Desso Trophy L** can be watered, but it is not always necessary to do so. Training can go ahead without watering, matches can take place with watering – the surface works perfectly either way. The 'L' stands for Light, which says as much about the cost as it does about the water usage. The L version contains more sand and allows 2D action. Desso Trophy L also provides a firm grip and allows natural slides.



**Sand-filled pitches**



## **A solid foundation for playing and training**



Hockey is becoming increasingly popular as more and more enthusiasts of all ages get hooked on the sport. For every elite team, there are plenty of ambitious teams that are trying to reach the top, as well as teams who just want to have fun playing hockey. They all have something in common – they want to spend their time on the pitch.

Every club needs a solid foundation that makes it possible to train and play on a regular basis, both competitively and for recreation. To create maximum availability for a limited budget, a sand-filled artificial turf pitch is an ideal solution.

Artificial turf pitches are usually played on intensively, which means that they have to be extremely durable. Their playability should not be affected by frost. They must not degrade, or suffer felting in the parts of the pitch that see the most action. Long-term retention of the playing characteristics is crucial and, of course, the pitches must be easy maintenance. To get the right surface for the right facility, Desso Sports Systems can meet your needs.





## For those who have acquired the taste

Optimal capacity, durability and playing characteristics: those are the key points that distinguish a Desso pitch. **Desso Crown Hockey** has been a leader in this field since 1980. This carpet is based on the extremely durable Desso Crown fibre - a monofilament polypropylene fibre that will not split, thereby avoiding felting and development of smooth areas where play is heaviest. Because the sand infill does not compact, the playing characteristics are retained for longer. Another positive aspect is the outstanding permeability. Desso Crown pitches drain amazingly well, even after many years of faithful service. The tuft configuration and the mat construction also contribute to the long life of the pitch, with quality being maintained throughout.

The continued popularity of this sport owes much to those at grass-roots level: the enthusiastic leisure player who develops a taste for the game whilst playing for fun. For such a standard we have created **Desso Forte Hockey**, the budget-friendly solution for recreational use and standard training sessions.

## Multifunctional pitches



## The future is maximum functionality



We have to face facts: in many towns and cities, the space available for new sports fields is becoming scarce and therefore more expensive too. That is why the trend is towards getting the most out of the space available, both in terms of the variety of users (several clubs, associations, schools, after-school activities, etc.) and the number of sports. If that kind of multifunctionality is what you're looking for, then artificial turf is the best choice by far, and Desso Sports Systems has a large range to choose from.

Having a pitch that is suitable for several ball sports is not a new idea. Just look at the many Desso artificial turf applications, for football and baseball, for example, or American football and rugby. Desso clients have grown very accustomed to having a field that can be used 7 days a week for a variety of sports. We produce surfaces that can provide good playing characteristics for as many sports as possible - even for that traditionally difficult combination of hockey and football!

In many places, the facilities available for hockey are more limited than for the extremely popular sport of football. A multifunctional field that can be used for training and playing both sports opens new opportunities for hockey.





## Hockey and football, on one pitch

Desso Sports Systems tracks a variety of ball sports very closely. This often leads to developments in one sport influencing another. Take **Desso Ambition**, for example. It's a newly developed complete system with an artificial grass surface, shock-absorbing underlayer, and innovative infill. It's completely focused on football at a high technical level.

However, during intensive research both in the lab and test installations, it became clear that Desso Ambition is also very suitable for hockey - it even scores better in several areas than the multifunctional, rubber-filled pitches. This is down to the better coverage provided by the innovative infill granules, which allow the small hockey ball to be played quickly over the surface without obstruction. There is no rubber crumb which can sometimes stick and compact the field. This also means that players can wear standard hockey shoes when playing on Desso Ambition.

Desso Ambition offers an extremely stable, weather-independent base for playing exciting hockey. The configuration of the Desso Ambition system creates a surface with a good 'look & feel.'

Desso Ambition is the ideal multifunctional pitch, not only for players and trainers, but also for owners and maintenance staff. They can see that the facility is being used to its maximum potential and that means maximum profitability. Maintenance becomes easier and costs decline. Also, with its easy recyclability, Desso Ambition continues to show its worth even at the end of its useful life.

# Worldwide, sports clubs play on more than 45.000.000 m<sup>2</sup> artificial grass by Desso Sports Systems



ARSENAL FC  
EMIRATES STADIUM  
LONDON  
UK



WYOMING COWBOYS  
UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING  
WYOMING  
USA



TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR  
WHITE HART LANE STADIUM  
TOTTENHAM  
UK



HC KLEIN ZWITZERLAND  
DEN HAAG  
THE NETHERLANDS  
Photo Jaap Nauta



PIM MULIER SPORTPARK  
HAARLEM  
THE NETHERLANDS  
Photo C. Krinkels



DENVER BRONCOS  
INVESCO FIELD AT MILE HIGH  
DENVER  
USA



WAGENER-STADION  
AMSTELVEEN  
THE NETHERLANDS



NAC  
RAT VERLEGHSTADION &  
TRAINING CENTRE BRED  
THE NETHERLANDS



RSC ANDERLECHT  
CONSTANT Vd STOCK STADION  
& TRAINING CENTER BRUSSEL  
BELGIUM



STADE EMILE ANTOINE  
PARIS  
FRANCE



PHILADELPHIA EAGLES  
LINCOLN FINANCIAL FIELD  
STADIUM PHILADELPHIA  
USA



CHELMSFORD HOCKEY CLUB  
CHELMSFORD  
UK



BRAXGATA  
NATIONAL HOCKEY CENTER  
BOOM  
BELGIUM



REAL MADRID  
TRAINING CENTRE  
MADRID  
SPAIN



LIVERPOOL FC  
ANFIELD  
LIVERPOOL  
UK



UMEA IK  
GAMMLIAVALLEN  
UMEA  
SWEDEN



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL  
BRUSSEL  
BELGIUM



HC DEN BOSCH  
DEN BOSCH  
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