

User report

“Everything has to be fast with us; we’re a sports club”

Volkswagen Arena Wolfsburg equipped with EFAFLEX high-speed doors

High quality design and the state-of-the-art technologies are marks of the home stadium of VfL Wolfsburg. The high-speed doors at the Volkswagen Arena Wolfsburg blend harmoniously into the architecture of the light-flooded glass building.

Yet it was not the design of the high-speed doors that sold technical director of the stadium, Maik Rummel, on the products from door specialist EFAFLEX. “The door to our main entrance had a fault that stopped it closing. We needed help fast, because the arena has to be secured.” The former maintenance company could not deliver that. The home team comes into the stadium through the main entrance and it is also the only access way to the indoor parking for staff and honoured guests.

In order to remedy the situation as quickly as possible, Maik Rummel contacted EFAFLEX customer service. “The customer service installers came immediately to fix the problem. I was so impressed by this that we decided to have the old door swapped out for doors from EFAFLEX.”

EFAFLEX, he says, is a perfect partner for such projects. “The company doesn’t just sell doors. They really do deliver Service with a capital S. That is exactly what we require here, because most times we need help immediately, not some days later.”

The technical director of the stadium in the 'Auto City' Wolfsburg made sure he was satisfied with the function and quality of the doors before having them installed into the Volkswagen Arena. "Simply everything is right. Service, quality and even the price."

Single-walled ventilation laths were used so as not to allow too much draft air to come through in winter, compared to rolling grilles, while still ensuring adequate ventilation for the grass in summer.

The doors in the access ways to the Volkswagen Arena serve exclusively to secure the stadium. An access control system controls all entering and exiting. Approach area monitoring guarantees no people or vehicles come to harm. "The arena should still only be open for as short a time as possible," Maik Rummel describes the great importance of fast-moving doors. The doors are accordingly equipped with a forced closing function. For the teams' protection, they can be slowly and carefully closed by a manual switch while keeping an eye on the door. After only six months, the access way for the visiting team was also equipped with an EFAFLEX high-speed door. Two other doors are planned to be upgraded during the summer break. "The plan, offer and installation have to follow each other in quickest succession. Everything has to be fast with us; we're a sports club," Maik Rummel explains.

VfL Wolfsburg, when founded on 12 September 1945 during the aftermath of WWII, was known briefly as VSK Wolfsburg before being given its present name: "Verein für Leibesübungen". Founded by eleven men and one woman, the club now has around 20,000 members, 11 youth teams, two professional teams, two second teams, three women's teams, and eight junior men's teams. On 23 May 2001, the football division spun off from the main club and VfL Wolfsburg Fußball GmbH was formed. The new Volkswagen Arena opened in December 2002, after only 18 months' construction time. Covering an area of 28,000 square metres around the field, an infrastructure arose out of the ground looking something like a small suburb in itself. For the 30,000 places in the stadium, there are 17 kiosks

catering for food and drinks, 12 outdoor bars, and sanitary blocks with more than 600 toilets. The visitors' block, with nearly 2,000 sitting and standing places, has its own kiosk and sanitary facilities. There are also dedicated places and infrastructure for 80 wheelchair users, 10 visually impaired people, and their companions. Drivers can park their cars in around 7,000 free parking spots. For the 2011 FIFA Women's World Cup, the stadium was structurally adapted to FIFA's specific requirements. Among other modifications, the floodlighting was expanded to 172 floodlights of 2,000 watts each. Four World Cup games have been held in the Arena so far.

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