

All year on the Piste at Castleford Xscape



Innovative ProntO-PeX™ all-plastic barrier pipe lies at the heart of the indoor snow slope in the sensational new £60 million Xscape Leisure Complex has been opened in Castleford, West Yorkshire. Enthusiastic skiers, boarders and bladers can now look forward to fun on the piste all year round on the real thing – soft powder snow. Similar complexes first developed in Japan have been built in Glasgow, Tamworth and Milton Keynes. Some 20,000 metres of the five-layer ProntO-PeX™ pipe, manufactured by Micrex Profiles of Stalybridge, has been laid in long loops over the whole base of the 35-metre wide slope. Each loop connects via

individual isolating ballvalves, to large manifold pipes running alongside the entire length of the 175 metres run. a glycol/water mixture is pumped vigorously through the pipes to freeze and subsequently maintain a six-inch thick block of ice over the surface area of the slope. this keeps the daily covering of fresh, dry snow in tip-top condition for the skiers.

Versatile PrOntO-PeX™ was specified for its hi-tech properties and outstanding performance by installers Pipe 2000 for acer Snowmec, the company that holds the patent application for this new ski slope system. Mike West, technical director at Pipe 2000, reports that the installation ran smoothly and was completed in just six weeks. He explained: “Pipe 2000 were very impressed with PrOntO-PeX™ because of its easy handling and natural flexibility. it was simple to lay and curve, and, upon freezing, PrOntO-PeX pipe performed precisely as predicted.” PrOntO-PeX™ is a super-tough 5 layer pipe produced from isoplas crosslinkable polyethylene and features a buried internal eVOH barrier that inhibits oxygen permeation and diminishes the risk of corrosion within a system. it offers outstanding resistance to significant temperature changes, increased physical load, UV light exposure and aggressive chemicals. Best of all, it is virtually maintenance-free and has a life expectancy of fifty years. BSi and SKZ-approved, the PrOntOPeX pipe is ideal for hot and cold water systems and underfloor heating. it's been on the market only since the beginning of this year but has already proved a huge success with specifiers, architects, plumbers and heating engineers.



PrOntO-PeX™ is supplied direct from Micrex or through appointed trade distribution outlets. it's fully compatible with standard compression and push fit fittings and comes in 10, 15, 22 and 28mm diameters (plus half, three-quarter and one-inch irish sizes too) in off-the-shelf coils of 25 and 50 metre and in 3 and 6 metre straight lengths. Micrex Profiles manufacturers of PrOntO-PeX are part of the Stamford Group of Companies and have more than four decades of experience in the plastics industry. they're always pleased to help specifiers with technical advice and custom orders.

website: www.micrex-profiles.co.uk