

## Kazakhstan: MasterTop for ice-hockey stadium

# MasterTop on the rocks

The ice-hockey stadium in Ust-Kamenogorsk, Kazakhstan, required an upgrade to comply with cross-regional regulations. For the floor, an EB flooring system was the solution of choice.

The city of Ust-Kamenogorsk in eastern Kazakhstan is an ice-hockey institution: The Boris Aleksandrov Stadium is home to KazZinc Torpedo, the country's most successful hockey club, a thirteen-time national champion and also participant in Russia's hockey leagues for decades.



To make the Boris Aleksandrov Stadium compliant with the requirements of the Kontinental Hockey League – the successor of the Russian Superleague that comprises not only top teams from Russia but also select teams from other countries such as the Czech Republic, Finland, Slovakia and Kazakhstan – several upgrades were now necessary. In a first step, the floor space of the foyer leading up to the eastern and west-

ern stands – previously very small – was significantly increased; at a later stage, the stadium's north side will be expanded and seat capacity increased from 3,500 to 5,200.

With the entire first step of the expansion scheduled for completion within just three months during last autumn, the tight time frame was the biggest challenge of the project. And this was compounded by the

detrimental environmental conditions of below-zero temperatures – not just because of the season but also because the ice rink had to be kept operational, further decreasing floor-area temperature and increasing humidity.

During the planning stage, the applicator – a long-term EB partner – specified a polyurethane-based flooring and specifically recommended MasterTop 1325. Installed without any joints, the system is tear-, scratch-, UV-, and light-resistant, has low-emission and crack-bridging properties, and results in a low-impact, sound-absorbing, and thus convenient and comfortable floor. And while a competitor requested closer consideration of their own product, this proved a futile attempt as the client felt very confident of the quality of the EB solution and the professionalism of the applicator. Ultimately, MasterTop 1325 was installed on a total area of 3,500 square meters in the new foyer during the first upgrade stage of the Boris Aleksandrov Stadium.