

## **First place for a system filtering out microplastics from artificial turf surfaces**

### **The 2019 Environmental Technology Award goes to... HAURATON**

Rastatt, 17 July 2019. HAURATON has won the Baden-Württemberg Environmental Technology Award. The award, honouring the microplastic filtering system SPORTFIX CLEAN, was presented yesterday in the Schwabenlandhalle in Fellbach. Intended for installation on sports pitches with artificial turf, SPORTFIX CLEAN prevents even the smallest particles of microplastics, pollutants and heavy metals from entering the drainage outflow, and is therefore a worthy winner in the "Emissions Reduction, Treatment and Separation" category.

"HAURATON's filter system offers an easy-to-use solution, which prevents a considerable build-up of microplastic on sports pitches with artificial turf", as Baden-Württemberg's Environment Minister, Franz Untersteller, remarked on the family company's latest development.

#### **A key step towards a cleaner environment**

It is highly effective, because at around 3,000 orders per year (including 1,000 in Europe), the worldwide demand for new artificial turf sports pitches is very strong. "Our solution can not only be installed on new pitches, but also replace existing ones and therefore do a lot for the environment," says HAURATON's CEO, Marcus Reuter. "As specialists in drainage systems, it is important that we contribute to a cleaner environment, and focus on research and development. We are delighted to receive this award, and it will spur us on to pursue further ideas for new environmental technologies."

Combining the system filters with the linear drainage means that additional costs remain low. The microplastic discharge of an artificial turf pitch amounts to about 250 to 300 kilograms per year. This is caused in part by granules on the surface, which, as infill material, should minimise the risk of injury to the players. It is also caused by the blades of plastic grass breaking off or coming loose. Thanks to precipitation, artificial irrigation and maintenance measures, or simply due to players using the pitch, these microplastic particles eventually end up fragmented and entering the food chain if they are not removed by SPORTFIX CLEAN. As well as the filter channel at the edge of the pitch, additional zones can be set up to collect the microplastic particles. It makes sense to fit the collection point for cleared snow with a filter system. The SPORTFIX CLEAN system is therefore a solution which retains microplastic

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material which has been deposited on the pitch from the players' clothing and shoes.

### **The result of years of research and development**

The drainage channels needed can easily be installed alongside the artificial turf field and the other collection zones. They are made of recycled and recyclable polypropylene. The channel system has therefore received the "Blue Angel" environmental seal. Once the channels have been installed, prefabricated pipes are inserted along the channel sole. An environmentally friendly, frost-resistant substrate of broken natural rock is then added. The effectiveness and durability of this substrate has been proven by long-term testing. As Reuter points out: "The substrate is the result of years of development work – primarily with partners from the science and technology sectors. We have invested heavily in the project for a long period of time, and are confident that our system will operate with absolute reliability." The filter surface around the pitch has a surface area of 20 to 40 square metres, depending on the design of the pitch. SPORTFIX CLEAN can therefore absorb large quantities of solids.

### **Durable and low-maintenance**

The surface filtration and the specially-designed substrate, which can collect and withhold even the smallest particles ( $>0.45\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ ), make the system low-maintenance. It is generally sufficient to remove the collected residue from the filter surface every three to five years, and to exchange a small part of the substrate surface. As Fabian Reuter, initiator and inventor of the range, emphasises: "This ensures long-term investment security for operators. Even when replacing an artificial turf pitch, the filter channel system can be preserved and reused, regardless of the artificial turf type used."

The system also works in torrential rain, and it runs dry naturally. This means that the channels are not permanently filled with water, thus preventing a residue of pollutants and germs. The water cleaned by SPORTFIX CLEAN can be used to irrigate playing fields and grassy areas, thus saving drinking water.

### **About the Environmental Technology Award**

Every two years, the Ministry of the Environment, Climate Protection and the Energy Sector Baden-Württemberg recognises outstanding and innovative products and projects in the environmental technology sector.

The prize money (totalling €100,000) is divided between the winners of the four main categories and the Judges' Commendation. The categories are "Energy Efficiency", "Material Efficiency", "Emissions Reduction, Treatment and

Separation", and "Measurement and Control Technology, Industry 4.0". Companies which have their head office or a branch in Baden-Württemberg are eligible for nomination. The award recognises products that make a significant contribution to resource efficiency and environmental protection, and which are about to be launched on the market, or have been on the market for more than two years.

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Hauraton is located in Rastatt, Germany, and has been operating successfully for 60 years. Today, Hauraton is one of the market leaders in the field of drainage and water management systems, with more than 20 branches worldwide and sales in more than 70 countries. Hauraton offers over 2,000 different products under the four headings Civils, Landscaping, Aqua and Sport with the range being continually extended. With the introduction of Recyfix recycled composite channels, the Side-Lock locking system and a detailed catalogue on the internet, Hauraton is considered the industry's leading innovator. The reference list includes international projects such as the Formula 1 race track in Sochi, the Luzhniki-Stadium Moscow for the 2018 World Cup in Russia, the Mercedes-Benz Museum in Stuttgart and the Fraport Airport in Frankfurt.

For further information, see [www.hauraton.com](http://www.hauraton.com).

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