



17 October 2011

Mr Eric McGuire  
Business Development Manager  
Desso Sports Systems

E-mail: [emcquire@desso.com](mailto:emcquire@desso.com)

Dear Eric

Now that the dust has settled on our four Rugby World Cup games during September and October 2011, the Management team have had time to reflect on the decision that we made to install Desso Grassmaster. We concluded that the reception the stadium received from media, guests and players was overwhelmingly positive.

The presentation of the pitch to Sky TV and IRB not only fulfilled but exceeded their expectations. The testimonials we have received leaves us in no doubt that the decision to install your system was our crowning glory.

In this rugby mad country, the first team to train on our field was the All Blacks and having had scrummage practice, the endorsements received from Mike Croub and Tony Woodcock (All Blacks) has left us in no doubt that the pitch would stand up to the requirements of international rugby. This was later confirmed by Martin Johnston and Lewis Moody (Team Coach and Captain for England) following the opening world cup game against Argentina on the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

These two teams are amongst the world's best scrummagers and this proved to be the ultimate test for the grassmaster installation and we are pleased to report that it not only withstood the punishment dished out by the teams but exceeded the players expectations.

On behalf of everyone down here in Dunedin, we would like to thank you and your team for your help during the installation process and your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Davies", with a small flourish at the end.

David Davies  
Chief Executive Officer

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# RUGBY

## DESSO GRASSMASTER AT WORLD'S FIRST FULLY ENCLOSED NATURAL GRASS STADIUM



### Project info:

Project:	Rugby World Cup 2011
Country:	New Zealand
Installed in:	2011
Product:	Desso GrassMaster
Partner:	HG Sports Turf

*“With the increased stability and durability of the turf, we can deliver on our promise to be a truly multi-purpose facility”*  
David Davies, CEO of Forsyth Barr Stadium

### Essential ingredients in stadium's design

The new Forsyth Barr Stadium in Dunedin (New-Zealand) plays host to four matches of the 2011 Rugby World Cup and is one of a kind in all aspects. To tackle Dunedin's extreme cold and wet climate, the most southerly professional sports stadium in the world was equipped with two essential features: a UV translucent roofing and a hybrid grass pitch.

### Durable pitch indispensable for Rugby World Cup

To host the Rugby World Cup, the stadium was in need of a firmly anchored and stable pitch, that can handle all weather conditions.

David Davies, CEO of Forsyth Barr Stadium: *"The introduction of Desso GrassMaster is just another unique factor that makes this stadium absolutely world class. With the increased stability and durability of the turf, we can deliver on our promise to be a truly multi-purpose facility, providing a wide range of events to meet the needs of the whole community."*

### 30 000 fans under one UV translucent roof

The architectural icon can seat over 30 000 fans, all under one translucent roof. This roof is made up of EFTE, a transparent polymer originally developed for the space industry. This roof material allows for 90% of the sunlight to still reach the pitch, along with UV light and fresh air.



For the first time worldwide, natural grass grows under a fixed roof.



The stadium was designed so that spectators are closer to the action than ever before.

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# FOOTBALL

## TOP FOOTBALL ON DESSO GRASSMASTER AT SOUTH AFRICA 2010



### Project info:

Project: Mbombela Stadium and Peter Mokaba Stadium  
Event: South Africa 2010  
Installed in: 2010  
Product: Desso GrassMaster  
Partner: Servest Turf

***"I can honestly say that the pitch turned out to be one of the best, if not the best one we had. (...) Its performance was outstanding"***

Derek Blanckensee, Chief Competitions Officer at  
the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ Organising Committee South Africa

In 2010, for the first time in history, a FIFA World Cup™ has been played on grass pitches reinforced with artificial grass. The Desso GrassMaster system has been installed at the stadiums in Nelspruit (Mbombela) and Polokwane (Peter Mokaba).

With this type of hybrid pitch, the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ had a perfect pitch throughout the tournament. *"Our pitch in Nelspruit was initially one of the most problematic in the tournament, having to be rebuilt three times. On the last occasion the stadium management decided to install Desso Grassmaster. I can honestly say that the pitch turned out to be one of the best, if not the best one we had. After a match there were hardly any marks on it, to the extent that you could have played another match immediately. The stability provided by Desso GrassMaster was amazing. Our pitch in Polokwane was also Desso GrassMaster and once again its performance was outstanding."*, states Derek Blanckensee, Chief Competitions Officer at the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ Organising Committee South Africa.

The future of the stadiums looks promising with a long legacy ahead. *"A month after the World Cup we played the first Rugby tournament on the Mbombela pitch. Even after all seven matches, the pitch was still in perfect condition."*, says Neil Fourie, Sport Facility Design Consultant at Platinum Sport Consulting Ltd.



*"The stability provided by Desso GrassMaster was amazing",* says Derek Blackensee.



The Peter Mokaba Stadium is one of the first stadiums to host a World Cup match on Desso GrassMaster.

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# FOOTBALL

## ONE OF THE BEST PITCHES IN ENGLISH FOOTBALL DESPITE STADIUM'S DESIGN



### Project info:

Club:	Manchester City FC
Country:	UK
Installed:	2010
Product:	Desso GrassMaster

*“Thanks to the efforts of a hard-working team and a great hybrid grass system we now have one of the best pitches in the English Premier League”*

*Lee Jackson, Head Groundsman at Manchester City*

### Challenging stadium design

With every seat of the stadium covered by the roof and the pitch located six metres below ground, Manchester City's stadium is both intimate and intimidating. This striking architecture has implications for the pitch: lack of sunlight and fresh air make it very difficult for natural grass to grow.

### Hybrid grass to overcome stadium layout

Therefore ManCity chose a hybrid natural grass system, Desso GrassMaster. With 20 million artificial grass fibres injected into the pitch, the stadium always has a stable and even field, regardless of its design. In addition, louvres on the corners of the field allow ventilation and a translucent pane on the roof provides the pitch with sunlight.

### Groundsman of the Year

In 2011, Lee Jackson of ManCity won the IOG Groundsman of the Year Award. Jackson: *“Receiving this award confirmed what we already knew: thanks to the efforts of a hard-working team and a great hybrid grass system we now have one of the best pitches in the English Premier League.”*

### Play and train in same optimal conditions

ManCity not only plays matches on Desso GrassMaster in its stadium, also their training academy is equipped with the hybrid grass system.



ManCity's pitch is acknowledged as one of the best in English football.



Lee Jackson of ManCity was awarded Groundsman of the Year 2011.

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# FOOTBALL

## RSC Anderlecht goes for certain quality of turf



### Project info:

Club: RSC Anderlecht  
Country: Belgium  
Installed in: 2006  
Product: Desso GrassMaster

***"As one of the main Belgian football teams in Europe, Sporting Anderlecht is conscious of the added value of new technology and advanced infrastructure."***

**Herman Van Holsbeeck, General Manager RSC Anderlecht**

### Technological tour de force

In order to offer players and trainers every comfort, RSC Anderlecht resolutely supports technically advanced solutions. General Manager Herman Van Holsbeeck: *"As one of the main Belgian football teams in Europe, Sporting Anderlecht is conscious of the added value of new technology and advanced infrastructure. Not only for the club, but also for the public, supporters and sponsors. This all fits within the modernisation and further development of the club at all levels."*

### An ambitious partnership

Targeted investments in sophisticated sports facilities help Sporting Anderlecht to put its sporting aims, at a national and international level into practice.

A first decisive step was made last year with the installation of Desso GrassMaster, natural grass reinforced with artificial grass fibres, on the main training pitch. *"After 600 hours of play the field is still in perfect condition. Discussions with colleagues at English top clubs like Tottenham Hotspur and Arsenal FC convinced the management of Anderlecht to choose Desso GrassMaster. This all resulted in an important partnership with Desso Sports Systems,"* says Yves De Cocker, Sales Manager at Desso. Thanks to this unique system RSCA always plays and trains in the same ideal – I would almost say perfect – circumstances. A striking detail: artificial turf was applied around the pitch, the ideal foundation for the rehabilitation of injured players and warming up reserve players during the match.



Installation of the Desso GrassMaster on the main training pitch of Sporting Anderlecht.



Purple and white during training on artificial turf.

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# FOOTBALL

## Reinforced natural grass for the Emirates Stadium of Arsenal FC



### Project info:

Club: Arsenal FC  
Country: UK  
Installed in: 2006  
Product: Desso GrassMaster

***“Desso GrassMaster is a reliable grass system that has always more than proven itself at other top clubs in the Premiership. (...) I have every confidence in it.”***

**Paul Burgess, Head Groundsman of Arsenal FC**

The red and white gunners of Arsenal FC waved farewell to Highbury and swapped their football citadel for a brand-new stadium a few hundred metres further away. The Emirates Stadium has become a real football temple. With a reinforced natural grass system from Desso Sports Systems.

The construction of Arsenal's new home base in London began in 2004. *“The special construction of the stadium makes it more difficult for grass to grow well. In any event, we have found a system in Desso GrassMaster that reinforces natural grass, protects the fibre and above all fulfils the high demands of our players.”*, says John Beattie, Stadium Manager of the Emirates Stadium.

Paul Burgess, Head Groundsman of the Arsenal-field and pronounced 'Professional Football Groundsman 2005', is also satisfied. *“With the construction of the new stadium in 2006, was a very busy year but that certainly does not make it any less wonderful. I am looking forward to working with the new field in the Emirates Stadium. I have every confidence in our having made the right choice with the Desso GrassMaster. People ask me whether this field will be as good as the Highbury pitch and I can easily reassure them. It is a reliable grass system that has more than proven itself with other top clubs from the Premiership. It will certainly be a pleasure to play football at the Emirates Stadium.”*



GrassMaster-machine injects artificial fibres in the football field every 2cm.



Emirates stadium in the heart of North London.

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# FOOTBALL

## Denver Broncos – Desso GrassMaster best professional sports field in America



### Project info:

Club: Denver Broncos  
Country: USA  
Product: Desso GrassMaster

***"I am constantly astounded by the way our Desso GrassMaster-field performs. (...) Winning these two prestigious awards only confirms what I already knew."***

**Ross Kurcab,, Turf Manager Denver Broncos Football Club  
& Certified Sport Field Manager**

The STMA, the Sports Turf Managers Association, presents an annual award for the best sports fields in the USA. This award is especially prized because the professionals, namely the stadium managers, judge each other's fields. In 2006 the Desso GrassMaster of the Denver Broncos was pronounced the best professional field in America.

The turf of the Mile High Stadium, the home to the NFL-club the Denver Broncos won both in the category "best field for professional American football" and "best field for professional football". This is the first time since the award began that the same field is selected in 2 different categories.

Ross Kurcab has over 20 years of experience as turf manager at the Broncos and has won many awards. *"I am constantly astounded by the way our Desso GrassMaster-field performs. And already for five years. Winning these two prestigious awards only confirms what I already knew. This field is perfectly able to handle the incredibly busy schedule of 2 to 3 sports clubs, concerts and all kinds of events. In addition it also performs fantastically at the end of the year for NFL football. It is truly a grass miracle!"*

The Desso GrassMaster-field is used for American football but also for soccer and lacrosse. Other NFL-top clubs like the Pittsburgh Steelers, the Super bowl winners, the Philadelphia Eagles and the Green Bay Packers also play on this Desso-system.



Invesco field at Mile High also used for top football competitions.



Ross Kurcab, Denver Broncos

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# RUGBY

## Doncaster Rugby League Club proud of home pitch



### Project info:

Club: Doncaster RLC  
Country: UK  
Product: Desso GrassMaster

***“The reinforced natural grass system helped us to get the best out of our facilities while we are still able to continue to offer an excellent playing surface to our players.”***

Head Groundsman Andy Thompson

Doncaster Lakers RLFC – also known as ‘the Dons’ – is a British Rugby League club. Since December 2006, the blue-gold rugby players have been playing in Keepmoat Stadium, which is also the home ground for Doncaster Rovers FC and the Doncaster Bells.

Keepmoat Stadium itself can seat more than 15,000 spectators, all of whom look out onto a Desso GrassMaster stadium field: synthetic fibres interwoven with natural grass...the perfect formula for keeping a top-level grass pitch in peak condition.

Head Groundsman Andy Thompson says: *"the Desso GrassMaster system is fantastic. We have 3 teams playing in the stadium, one of which is the Doncaster Lakers rugby team, and yet, the wear on the grass surface is minimal. The reinforced natural grass system helped us to get the best out of our facilities while we are still able to continue to offer an excellent playing surface to our players."*

It's not only the stadium pitch that has Desso Sports' name all over it. All of the artificial turf fields were manufactured by Desso. These pitches are used by the public and by sports clubs in the neighbourhood. Thanks to the intensive use, the investment pays for itself, but not at the expense of quality.



Desso GrassMaster can also take the tough knocks of rugby too.

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# FOOTBALL

## Feyenoord GrassMaster in favour with players and trainers



### Project info:

Club: Feyenoord  
Country: The Netherlands  
Product: Desso GrassMaster

***"It is great for the footballers themselves to know that that kind of turf is available. It is simply fun to play football on it."***

**Ruud Gullit, former trainer of Feyenoord**

The Dutch premier division club Feyenoord is known to set high demands on its accommodation. In this way the Rotterdam stadium De Kuip is generally considered the most attractive and atmospheric in the Netherlands. The stadium pitch is loaded additionally as a result of the busy competition schedule, a problem that other European top clubs also struggle with.

Feyenoord already trains on a Desso GrassMaster system on its main training pitch since the 2003-2004 season. On the basis of these positive experiences the decision was taken to equip the stadium with the same reinforced natural grass system. Thanks to the fast recovery time of this grass system, that is protected during concerts with a special covering system, de Kuip can also organise concerts and events and quickly recovered the investment made.

According to Ruud Gullit, the then trainer at Feyenoord, the benefits of Desso GrassMaster are clear: *"You can play under all circumstances. The field is always even. It is great for the footballers themselves to know that that kind of turf is available. You can simply play great football on it, also because this turf constantly allows you to play with shorter studs. And it is better for players sensitive to injuries. I only hear positive things."*



The reinforced natural grass field of Feyenoord is considered the best in the Netherlands.



Ruud Gullit on the Desso GrassMaster-turf.

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# FOOTBALL

## Stable grass pitch for Liverpool's Anfield Stadium



### Project Info:

Club: Liverpool FC  
Country: UK  
Product: Desso GrassMaster

***"We couldn't get the pitch stable. (...) We visited a number of stadiums that have Desso GrassMaster pitches and all of them had a very stable grass pitch."***

Jud Poynton, Stadium Manager Liverpool FC

During the season 1997-1998, Liverpool FC experienced a lot of problems with its pitch at Anfield Stadium.

Jud Poynton, Stadium Manager at Liverpool FC says: *"We couldn't get the pitch stable. There were large clumps of grass coming up and the pitch was deteriorating fast. The root zone was not going deep enough to give the grass the necessary strength."*

Liverpool reconstructed its pitch in 1998 and put in a new drainage and irrigation system. However, the new natural grass pitch did not live up to expectations. Before the 1999-2000 season the pitch was renewed again, but to no avail.

*"The problem is that the stands have got bigger and bigger which reduces daylight and gives more shade in certain areas. It also reduces ventilation. These factors have contributed to the pitch's struggle to grow grass and get an effective root zone. When it failed in the winter of 1999-2000 I, together with the Chief Executive, decided we had to look at the Desso GrassMaster system",* says Poynton.

*"We visited a number of stadiums that have Desso GrassMaster pitches and all of them had a very stable grass pitch. This is the main reason we went for it and I have to say it has proven successful so far. We injected more fibres down the wings and it has proven very beneficial at this moment in time."*

The Anfield pitch is now one of the best pitches in the English Football League. Poynton: *"Quite a few clubs have visited us to look at the pitch and were very enthusiastic."*



Anfield Stadium, Liverpool FC



Installation Desso GrassMaster in Anfield Stadium, Liverpool FC

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# FOOTBALL

## Parken Stadium – from football temple to concert building



### Project info:

Country: Denmark  
Product: Desso GrassMaster

***"The Desso GrassMaster is the most important factor by which we can successfully meet a demanding schedule."***

**Chris Hague, Grounds manager at Parken Stadium**

The Danish Parken Stadium is at the top of the UEFA-list of 4\* football stadiums. A merit of the architecture, acoustics and quality of the pitch.

With a capacity for 41 752 seats, this arena is more than just a football stadium for FC Copenhagen and the national football team. The stadium changes from major concert evenings, tennis tournaments, diner events and important football matches at the speed of an express train. The pitch consequently also has to bear a lot.

"That's exactly right," confirms Chris Hague, Grounds manager of the Danish stadium. "The Desso GrassMaster is the most important factor by which we can successfully meet a demanding schedule. Because the natural grass is reinforced with artificial grass fibres we can complete diverse sporting events and all kinds of other activities all year through. Desso Grassmaster also ensures continuity on the football field. In that way the field endured a non-stop training schedule of FC Copenhagen over a period of 9 weeks. Pure class if you ask me," says Hague.

Generally the stadium fields are covered by permeable, plastic panels that leave a layer of air between the grass and the panel. In that way the grass is better able to breathe and the pressure on the field is distributed well. However if a natural grass field is covered for numerous days, terrible things often happen to the grass.

With reinforced natural grass the natural grass roots grow around the injected artificial grass and give a stronger, fuller turf.



Saturday-Concert on the reinforced natural pitch.



Sunday afternoon football match on reinforced natural grass.

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# FOOTBALL

## Tottenham Hotspur 'one of the family' at Desso Sports



### Project info:

Club: Tottenham Hotspur FC  
Country: UK  
Product: Desso GrassMaster

***"We are very satisfied with the cooperation with Desso Sports and the follow-up after installation. Desso Sports Systems is indisputably the leader in innovation."***

**Darren Baldwin, Head Groundsman Tottenham Hotspur FC.**

### Synthetic grass for training

Seven years after laying a Desso artificial turf at their training centre "Spurs Lodge" Tottenham Hotspur, one of the top teams in the English Premiership competition, again chose Desso Sports. *"We are very satisfied with the cooperation with Desso Sports and the follow-up after installation. They are indisputably the leader in innovation. Our new Desso Challenge Pro<sup>2</sup> artificial turf has everything we would wish for in a synthetic grass system."* says Darren Baldwin, Head Groundsman at Tottenham Hotspur FC.

### Top awards with Desso GrassMaster

The blue and white Spurs play on a Desso GrassMaster football field in their stadium at White Hart Lane. Keeping the match field in playable condition for a large number of matches is the first priority of a groundsman. The weather conditions were not favourable. Luckily Darren Baldwin could rely on competent staff and the Desso GrassMaster system. It gained him the award of 'Groundsman of the Year' in the English Premier League. Himself he considers it as follows: *"The Desso GrassMaster system has helped us through a difficult period. The team had to finish a lot of matches over a short period and the weather was atrocious."*

Increasingly more English football clubs are becoming enthusiastic about the Desso GrassMaster system. Almost half of all the clubs in the Premier League are now equipped with this successful turf.



Darren Baldwin accepts the trophy 'Groundsman of the year'



Desso GrassMaster field in the White Hart Lane Stadium of Tottenham Hotspur.

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# FOOTBALL & RUGBY

## Football and rugby put natural grass to the test



© WP Rugby (Carl Fourie)

### Project info:

Name: Newlands Rugby Stadium  
Country: South-Africa  
Product: Desso GrassMaster  
Installed in: 2000

***“The installation of the Desso GrassMaster pitch is one of the best decisions for Newlands Rugby Stadium.”***

**Rob Wagner, Managing Director of Western Province Rugby Union in Cape Town**

### Both rugby and football

Newlands Rugby Stadium in Cape Town, South Africa, is one of the oldest international rugby stadiums in the world and has been the field of honour for many historical fixtures. It is the home pitch of the Vodacom Stormers rugby team. In the rugby off-season, Newlands Stadium is used for football matches, thus maximising the stadium's profitability.



© WP Rugby (Carl Fourie)  
Newlands Rugby Stadium

### Strong, sturdy and stable

In 2000, the stadium was fitted with Desso GrassMaster. Things can get pretty tough during a rugby or football match. It's not only the players that take a pounding; the grass does too. Reinforced natural grass system, Desso GrassMaster, can handle it, no problem. As the roots of the natural grass grow they entwine around the artificial turf fibres. This anchors the grass sod so that the field is able to withstand the scrums and other aspects of the game that continuously test the pitch.

***“Newlands is right by the ocean. Because of the location (salty air, wind, hot, humid summers and cold winters) we went looking for the ideal grass mix to combine with Desso GrassMaster. The reinforced natural grass, in combination with European Perennial Rye Grass, has given us the best grass surface in South Africa.”***

**Julian Barnard,**  
groundsman Newlands Rugby Stadium

### Elite pitch for elite stadium

Rob Wagner, Managing Director of Western Province Rugby Union in Cape Town: *“The pitch always stays in perfect shape even under bad weather conditions: it plays fast and both ball-bounce and ball-roll are as good as they can be. Even after 270 minutes – three consecutive fixtures – the grass is still standing strong.”* Top international clubs, such as Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur, have also played in the stadium and were very impressed by the perfect condition of the pitch.



© WP Rugby (Carl Fourie)  
Absa Currie Cup 2008 on Desso GrassMaster

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