

FIRST-CLASS NETWORK TECHNOLOGY
FOR GOTTHARD ARENA

The first Swiss ice rink with the latest mobile phone technology

The 50-million project, which was designed by the world-famous architect and self-confessed Ambri Piotta fan Mario Botta, represents a milestone not only for Ambri Piotta ice hockey club, but for the entire Gotthard region. Thanks to Axians, the ice hockey stadium, which was built on the Ambri airfield between 2018 and 2021, also has state-of-the-art network technology.



«For the antenna construction, the focus was on a high-performance mobile communications infrastructure. Because of this, network bottlenecks are now a thing of the past. Axians also impressed us with its reliability and ability to stick to the schedule, even under time pressure.»

Luca Speziali, Project Manager Swisscom



The starting point

Originally built in 1959, the ice hockey arena simply did not meet the expectations of today's operators, players and spectators.

As well as offering outstanding functionality and being highly user-friendly, the new building also needed to match the latest standards of network coverage; this is what made it necessary to integrate the most up-to-date mobile phone technologies.

Our solution

Today, the multipurpose Gotthard Arena is the most modern ice hockey stadium in Switzerland: a total of 6,775 spectators can enjoy an unobstructed view from three levels and an equally wide range of catering services. In addition, as the mobile communications infrastructure supports all current generations, it is also the first ice hockey arena in Switzerland to be comprehensively provisioned with the latest network standards.

Preliminary planning for the antenna construction started in autumn 2020, and a more detailed project scheme (including a schedule) was prepared in spring 2021. With numerous tradespeople and construction companies working simultaneously during the implementation phase, it was hectic on the construction site at times. However, the two Axians teams cooperated efficiently to ensure that all hurdles were overcome as planned.

Shortly before the end of the project, however, there was a race against time: a shipment of materials that was supposed to arrive by sea from the Far East did not turn up as planned and, to this day, is still missing, which meant that the time pressure increased enormously. Because of the supply-chain bottleneck (probably caused by the covid-19 pandemic), the replacement delivery had to be flown in by air at short notice. It arrived just in time, because the antennas had to be in place before the first ice was produced. This resulted in a high-pressure situation, but the Axians teams managed to handle it by getting heavily involved in the procurement logistics.

Assembly began on August 30th 2021, just 10 days before the opening. It wasn't exactly an everyday event: each antenna has 8 cable connectors with a cable length of 30 meters, which is a great deal of weight at a draw height of 15 metres. The new antennas were put into operation just in time for the opening.

As the pressure on the mobile network around the stadium has now been relieved, network bottlenecks have become a thing of the past. Ambri Piotta's lucky fans benefit from stable connections and can now share their experiences even more easily with the online community via the powerful network.



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