

EPSE

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Launch of the first EPSE Award: Emirates Stadium wins Best Project Category

European Polycarbonate Sheet Extruders (EPSE) organised an internal European award competition in two categories (Best Project Award and Best Innovation Award) among its members to raise awareness of the benefits of polycarbonate in different areas of applications. The EPSE Award is not a design competition; it recognises the benefits, innovativeness and the creative applications of polycarbonate.



Erik Fröjd (EPSE President), Mark Crain (HOK Sport Architecture)



Emirates Stadium

Polycarbonate is a high quality, transparent, thermoplastic synthetic material with exceptional properties. Therefore in this competition EPSE wants to emphasize the uniqueness, creative and innovative character of polycarbonate. This award is an opportunity for the industry world-wide to recognize innovation and quality business practices.

The 'European Polycarbonate Sheet Extruders' (**EPSE**) was created in 2003 by five prominent polycarbonate sheet manufacturers as a sector group of European Plastics Converters (EUPC), the European organisation for plastics converters.

The Award in the Best Project category went to Emirates Stadium by Mark Craine, HOC Sports in London UK, an area known for various sports activities. The new 60,000 seat Arsenal Emirates stadium is a four-tier structure which includes the Arsenal museum and shop, as well as a wide range of restaurants and bars. It features an undulating roof canopy created from profiled polycarbonate sheet, with extra UV-protection. This is suspended in an ellipse above the stands and is designed to provide maximum natural light throughout the stadium to optimise pitch condition, maximise energy cost-efficiencies and meet a range of design criteria for the stadium. Much of the canopy was covered with extruded polycarbonate in a profile designed to meet the abnormally high potential loadings which the roof could experience. However the collaboration between manufacturer and architect on design from the outset also led to the development of many uniquely shaped vacuum formed sheets, based on the same profile, and detailed to fit on the sloping and tapering areas found throughout the complex roof structure geometry while accommodating the suspending structural steelwork. Each uniquely identified roof light sheet was

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supplied to the roofing contractors with correspondingly coded layout plans to ensure trouble-free installation in each area of the roof.

The Award Jury was composed of renowned professionals representing various players: Mr. David A. Williams, the EuPC President, Mr. Georg Gewers, a prominent German architect, from Gewers Kühn und Kühn Gesellschaft von Architekten, Jonas Bensch, a junior architect from Quinze & Milan Designers, and Saïd El Khadraoui, a member of the European Parliament.

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