



BUILDING FOR LIFE

## Press release

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### The Aquatics Centre in Saint-Denis wins a prize in the French National Timber Construction Awards 2024

The Aquatics Centre in Saint-Denis, the jury favourite, was single out for its “Technical Prowess” at the French National Timber Construction Awards 2024.

Inaugurated in 2024, this project was built for the Greater Paris metropolitan authority by Bouygues Bâtiment Ile-de-France, a subsidiary of Bouygues Construction. It represents a feat of engineering and architecture that goes beyond traditional standards.



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This award acknowledges the collective work carried out by Bouygues Bâtiment Ile-de-France alongside the architectural firms VenhoevenCS and Ateliers 2/3/4/. The jury commended the scope and quality of the innovations. The wooden structure, which is an integral part of the architecture, combines lightness, aesthetics and durability, and optimises the overall energy performance.

### **Technical prowess to support eco-construction**

The Aquatics Centre features a major innovation: its concave timber frame composed of 90 arched catenaries, each of them 55 cm thick and with a 90-metre span. This is a world record, three times greater than the previous span record set for a building in Canada. With approximately 70 kg/m<sup>2</sup> of bio-sourced materials, Bouygues Bâtiment Ile-de-France's teams went beyond conventional building practices, creating a structure without false ceilings or unnecessary materials.

The roof, which was awarded the National Grand Prix for Engineering in 2021, embodies a remarkable level of technical sophistication. The wood used is 100% European, including 30% French timber for elements such as the sunbreaks and internal cladding. This choice, reinforced by the integration of wooden primary and secondary tie rods placed at 10-metre intervals, gives the structure a striking, memorable visual identity.

**Taha Ibn Salah**, CEO of the Bouygues Bâtiment Ile-de-France Public Facilities division, said: "This national award recognizes the determination of the consortium. From the outset of this collaboration, the consortium decided to use its expertise to create a model of environmental excellence, and to deliver an ambitious and iconic project that was showcased worldwide this past summer."

### **A lasting legacy after the Games**

Since October 1, the Aquatics Centre has been transformed into a sports and leisure centre accessible to the public, with a 25-meter pool for beginners, a recreational pool and a range of adapted activities. The site will be open over 90 hours per week, and will also offer facilities for paddle tennis, 5-a-side football, fitness and indoor rock climbing. A refreshment area and a sports recycling centre will boost its sustainability credentials. From 2025, it will be home to the French Swimming Federation's diving centre, and it will host the European Championships in 2026.

### **Aquatics Centre: key figures:**

- A 2.4-hectare site
- A building 30 metres tall, 106 metres wide and 114 metres long
- Four pools, including two for competition (a 50-metre pool and a diving pool)
- 2,500 seats in a horseshoe configuration to create an arena atmosphere
- More than 1,200 tonnes of bio-sourced materials
- 4,680 m<sup>2</sup> of photovoltaic panels on the roof
- 8.5 tonnes of locally recovered recycled plastic waste used for seating in the stands
- 84% of heating needs met by renewable and recoverable energy sources

## **ABOUT BOUYGUES CONSTRUCTION**

Bouygues Construction employs 32,500 people around the world, all driven by the greatest and most exciting responsibility of all - building for life. In more than 60 countries, we improve daily life for millions of people by creating structures and buildings that serve life and address all our needs: shelter, healthcare, education, work, entertainment, travel, access to low-carbon energy, etc. At every stage of a project, we put all our expertise and our experience into designing, renovating and building differently so that we can meet the critical imperatives of the environmental transition and achieve construction that is sustainable and less resource-intensive. Every day, we make sure that everyone is safe, and that human rights and ethical standards are respected. Committed to strong values, the men and women of Bouygues Construction work passionately alongside their customers and partners so that our footprint becomes ever more positive. In 2023, Bouygues Construction generated sales of €9.8 billion.

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