



ASSET PROTECTION

With a history steeped in innovation, SMG continues to push the boundaries for development and improvement in the field of artificial turf maintenance

(Main) SMG's PlanoMatic P928 is a fully automatic paver for elastic layers, sub-bases, athletics tracks and multipurpose sports surfaces **(Above, right)** The self-propelled TurfMuncher TM2000 can clear a field in approximately 20 hours



To ensure the best possible conditions for players, the quality and playing characteristics of sports surfaces must remain as consistent as possible. If an artificial turf pitch is not maintained properly, its performance will deteriorate and the safety of players will be compromised. Bavarian sports ground equipment manufacturer SMG Sportplatzmaschinenbau has developed a range of equipment designed to make maintenance of artificial turf simple and effortless.

At FSB 2013, which took place in Cologne, Germany, from 22-25 October, SMG introduced a number of innovative products and solutions to the industry. In particular, the company's new TurfMuncher TM2000D attracted a lot of attention at the show. This high-performance machine offers an innovative approach to the disposal and recycling of artificial turf, which was previously a rather problematic and labour-intensive task. The TurfMuncher combines the sections of artificial turf to create compact 2m rolls and fully prepares the filler material. It is also designed to ensure that substructures, such as flexible layers, are not damaged. Its fast operating speed and high material output mean that a standard artificial turf surface can be removed within 14 hours, provided the necessary logistics are in place.

SMG has also recently developed a new machine called TurfGuard TG1 – a self-propelled, single-axle machine for the installation and maintenance of

infill artificial turf systems. The TurfGuard TG1 uses a range of attachments to install and maintain artificial turf that has been infilled. The TG1 is powered by a 6.5hp petrol engine, with a variable hydrostatic drive and a hydraulic supply to the attachments that can be controlled. This means that the working speed and brush speeds can be adjusted to suit the turf conditions. Its compact size and tight turning circle make the machine ideal for small playing fields.

Cover all bases

For the recycling and renovation sector, SMG has developed the TurfCutter TC350 – a self-propelled machine designed for cutting artificial turf with and without filler material during removal. As the artificial turf is removed, the insert blade cuts the material to a specified depth and passes it over the sliding shoe. A motor-driven saw blade then cuts the turf again while a directional chain ensures directional stability. The TC350 has two forward gears and one reverse gear, and the saw device is fitted with a wheel lift device for easy transportation. The machine enables working speeds of up to 30m per minute.

Another new product is the LineStar LS1 – an airless pocket spraying machine for precise alignment of synthetic sports ground coverings and artificial turf surfaces. The LineStar LS1 can be used to spray 30 - 150mm lines and markings on sports ground surfaces. The airless pump is powered by

TURF MAINTENANCE



(Above) SMG's TurfCare TCA1400 is a ground driven, tow-behind device for artificial turf cleaning and care

(Below) The SandMatic B1505RC is a self-propelled, radio-controlled machine for the filling of artificial turf

a conventional 12V car battery. This means that the machine can apply the paint directly from the original container. Depending on capacity, the battery lasts up to six hours, after which it can be recharged or replaced. Powered self-cleaning limiter discs made of steel produce lines with maximum precision and without overspray. The ultra-compact, lightweight LS1 is transported in two special roller cases weighing 29kg and 23kg. This means that the weight does not exceed general air transport regulations and the contents are non-hazardous.

Developmental groundwork

SMG has been an industry innovator for more than 35 years, both in the marketplace and in the artificial turf sector. Over this time, the company has played an active role in the sport construction and synthetic flooring sectors, with numerous design developments.

“Our product portfolio has gradually developed as a result of ever-increasing demands regarding sports facilities installation,” says Tobias Owegerer, SMG managing director. “As a result of our practical

experience and know-how gained on site, we have not only produced but also initiated and designed these developments.”

Among many important developments in the sports construction sector over the past few decades is SMG's PlanoMatic series. The ingenious technology used in this innovation has substantially simplified the installation of synthetic flooring, to the extent that it is now used around the world.

Meanwhile, in the artificial turf maintenance sector, SMG has introduced well-engineered technical solutions. In particular, the company is keen to raise awareness of the need for proper maintenance and servicing plans.

“In order to achieve maximum service life and sustained playing properties, artificial turf surfaces must be maintained properly and consistently,” insists Owegerer. “If the turf care is incorrect or poor, the service life and the properties of the surface will be impaired, and this can very soon put investment at risk.”

SMG works hard to educate sports facilities owners about the UEFA and FIFA guidelines and standards, by, for example, publishing maintenance instructions and organising on-site workshops. Installers also receive intensive on-site support from SMG on handling and operating the machines during maintenance and cleaning. ■

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