Modern efficiency

An indoor soccer arena utilizes a cost-effective heating solution

By Marcy Marro

The new 267,000-square-foot (24,804-m^2) Ultimate Soccer Arena in Pontiac, Mich., opened in fall 2007 and is the largest, most modern indoor arena of its kind in North America. The state-of-the-art facility was designed to provide the ultimate indoor soccer experience for teams, coaches, players and players' families. In addition to first-rate fields, the stadium has more than 2,000 permanent seats for spectators. The complex features three FIFA regulation fields, two that are 110 by 75 yards (100 by 68 m) and one that is 85 by 47 yards (77 by 43 m), and is home to the United Soccer Leagues' Premier Development League, the Michigan Bucks and All American Lacrosse teams. More than a million people visit the facility each year.

"We wanted the best heating system possible to provide clean, energy-efficient heat with very even temperatures throughout the building," said George Derderian, one of the owners behind the 6-acre (2.4-hectare) indoor sports complex. While the owners first considered conventional, indirect gas-fired air rotation heating equipment, they were concerned about the requirement of a complicated and expensive system of large heaters that would take up valuable floor space. Energy efficiency, stratification and noise from the large blowers were also major concerns.

Rochester Hills, Mich.-based Systemp Corp. recommended state-of-the-art Cambridge Blow-Thru Space Heaters from Cambridge Engineering Inc., Chesterfield, MO. Ed Niemczycki, president of Systemp, and John McGraw, Cambridge district manager, designed a cost-effective solution that required only a few, small units to heat all three fields

The small units did a great job heating the facility during the very cold first winter, circulating the air and providing even temperatures without stratification despite a 72-foot- (22-m-) high peak ceiling. The high-performance Blow-Thru technology, a patented Cambridge burner, 100 percent combustion efficiency and the highest BTU/CFM ratio for the type of heating equipment led to lower than expected natural gas usage. The Blow-Thru space heating system helps improve indoor air quality by using only non-recirculated fresh outside air. MCN

Contact Cambridge Engineering for more information on high performance, energy efficient Blow-Thru® Space Heaters. Cambridge is an ENERGY STAR PARTNER and active member of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC).

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