

CASES
029

Dutch Football Club RKC Waalwijk Already Promoted Ready for the highest league

Dutch football club RKC Waalwijk is trying to find its way back to highest level, the Dutch Eredivisie, where they have been playing for years. After their relegation in 2014, RKC Waalwijk is now competing in the 2nd league in the Netherlands. The stadium of RKC Waalwijk, with a capacity of 7,500 spectators, has a new lighting system since the start of this season, based on LED. It means in terms of stadium lighting they have already been promoted.

Looking for The Way Up

RKC Waalwijk is a relatively young professional football club. After years of playing in the highest amateur league, the club made the switch to professional soccer in 1984. That soon proved to be successful, as in 1988 RKC promoted to the Eredivisie where they were active for 19 seasons. There were even

and second Dutch league. Since the 2014/2015 season, RKC Waalwijk has been playing in the Keuken Kampioen Divisie with minimal financial resources. After several years in financial dire straits the club can now invest in a better future again, with a complete stadium renovation RKC as the first step.

A Complete Renovation of the Stadium

General Director Frank van Mosselveld: "Over the past twenty years, hardly any maintenance has been carried out on the stadium. When you pay us a visit, the first impression is much better now. Everything looks a lot more modern, spacious and neat. People now see a lot of glass, wood and anthracite. The view of the stadium is not the only things that has been renewed, the stadium lighting of RKC Waalwijk has also completely been

"... the club is working hard for a better future again. With a complete stadium renovation RKC took the first step"

some European matches played and a 7th place in the Eredivisie was the highest position. However, in 2007 they were relegated for the first time, followed by a period of several years, switching between the highest

replaced. "RKC Waalwijk has converted its stadium to Eredivisie level, we wanted to implement this in all facilities and therefore also in the stadium lighting. The choice to also replace the lighting was simple. "With the old lighting we often had to deal with faults and

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age. It was simply out of date and clumsy to operate," says Van Mosselveld.

Smart Solutions in Stadium lighting

RKC Waalwijk has the ambition to return to the Dutch Eredivisie. "To be able to take these steps, the facilities first had to be of top level. In addition, the old lighting installation would no longer pass the inspection," says Van Mosselveld. The existing masts in the stadium

could be reused, provided that the load would not increase. That was the challenge. "LED luminaires are usually larger and heavier than conventional luminaires because a larger surface area is required for heat transfer. For most LED manufacturers this leads to more mass which would make the re-use of existing masts a difficult task," explains Raymond Wiggers of AAA-LUX. Thanks to the smart design of AAA-LUX, we are the only manufacturer in the world that can re-use the existing masts with an all-in product including power supply." concludes Wiggers.

Preserving the Existing Stadium Masts

AAA-LUX has installed 80 WS-STAD stadium LED luminaires in the Mandemakers Stadium. "These 80 LED fixtures produce a high light output, allowing AAA-LUX to achieve the necessary light values. In short, the required light level is achieved with fewer and lighter luminaires. This works to the advantage of RKC Waalwijk, as it allowed the old stadium masts to be retained," explains Wiggers. "Convenient from a cost perspective," adds Van Mosselveld. "This saves us from having to make extra investments in new or extra stadium masts. In addition, RKC Waalwijk has possibilities to expand. "Thanks to the low weight of the AAA-LUX stadium LED luminaires, it is even possible to install more luminaires later on, without exceeding the mast capacity," concludes Wiggers.

Ready to Compete

With the renewed stadium lighting and the renovation of the stadium, RKC Waalwijk is once again ready to compete. "The KNVB sets lighting requirements for the professional soccer clubs. The requirement for the Keuken Kampioen Divisie is 800 lux horizontal. With the switch to LED stadium lighting, RKC meets this requirement," explains Wiggers. The KNVB has not set any strict standards for the vertical light values. "But the stadium masts at RKC are perfect for achieving this. We always try to offer the best possible vertical light, Now the stadium amply meets the vertical lighting requirements of UEFA Level D. In the Mandemakers Stadium, FOX Sports and photographers already obtain high quality images. TV images speak for themselves," says Wiggers. An upgrade to UEFA Level C is also within easy reach. More vertical light ensures better HDTV recording. This is not currently necessary for RKC Waalwijk but as soon as the club becomes more successful and operates at a European level, the expansion possibilities are there .



CONTINUOUS INNOVATION

To remain a front runner in LED sport field lighting, continuous innovation is a must. Actually whilst writing this case study, the light output of AAA-LUX' stadium luminaires has been increased. It means today, 9 months after installation, AAA-LUX would use 72 lumaires instead of 80, to achieve the same lighting levels in this stadium. And we will not stop here...



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Always in Control

The stadium in Waalwijk uses the smart control system. The 80 LED luminaires are controlled wirelessly using pre-programmed dimming scenes. "During a match, the lighting is at 100%. During training courses, we simply set a lower lighting setting," explains Van Mosselvelde. As a result, RKC Waalwijk always illuminates its stadium at the right time at the desired level. This minimises energy consumption and light emissions to the immediate surroundings. "The quality of the lighting is excellent, and we can already see that we are using less energy. These are exactly the reasons why we chose AAA-LUX," says Van Mosselvelde. Apart from arguments about finances and lighting quality, the possibility to always select the desired light level of LED lighting also offers a nice contribution to reducing CO2 emissions and thus improves our carbon footprint as a soccer club.



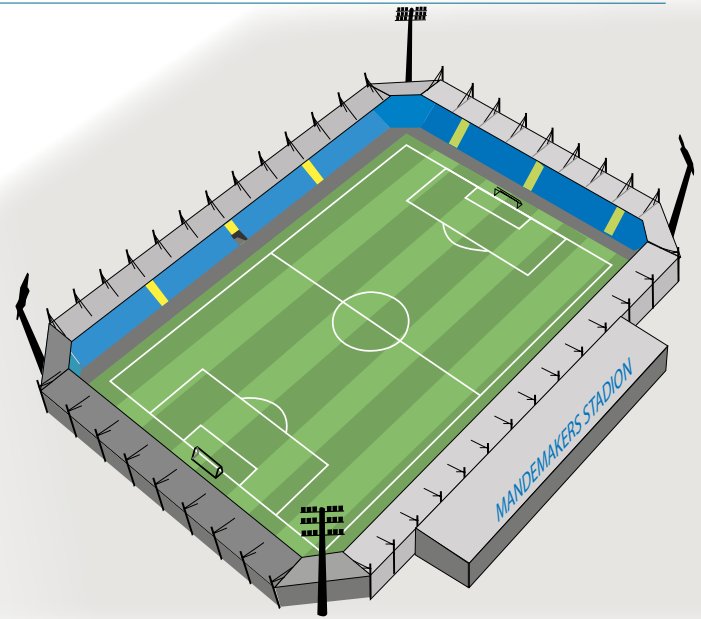
Installation details

Project

Mandemakers Stadium
Club: RKC Waalwijk
7500 spectators

1 x football field

Realisation: 2018



Led Luminaires used



80 X WS STAD / 72 X WS STAD

Illumination level
Horizontal: 900 lux, U_{min}/avg 0.8
Vertical: 600 lux, U_{min}/avg 0.4 all sides
Complies to Dutch Football Association (KNVB)
Complies to UEFA Level D
Possibility to upgrade to UEFA Level C

More information:

<http://www.aaa-lux-lighting.com/products/ws-serie-luminaires/>



InControl



Control Box



Touchscreen



Remote monitoring

More information:

<http://www.aaa-lux-lighting.com/products/incontrol/>

AAA-LUX project partner

AAA-LUX Benelux
Installer: OVI Enschede