

Press release from Jan de Beer, cell 082 456 3677:

VITREX CLADDING FOR KEY 2012 LONDON OLYMPIC GAMES RAILWAY STATION

Vitrex has supplied its Vitraclad vitreous enamelled steel cladding for the refurbishment of the Stratford (London) railway station, destined to be the principal multi-modal station for the 2012 London Olympic Games.

Cristian Cottino, Sales and Marketing Manager for Jet Park-based Vitrex, says the company has supplied heavy gauge Vitraclad panels in “Pure White” colour for the external cladding of the freestanding lift structures between the ground and first floors.

“Although the station, close to the new Olympic Stadium under construction north-east of London, is generally dominated by glass and stainless steel finishes, Vitraclad panels were preferred as cladding material for the lift structures because of Vitraclad’s low maintenance requirements and greater safety compared to glass and stainless steel, particularly in the event of an explosion,” Cottino states.

The contract – which called for flat, curved corner, parapet and rooftop VE cladding elements - forms part of London Underground’s upgrading programme to provide step-free station access for disabled commuters. The station is managed and operated by Tubelines on behalf of London Underground.

“Stratford Station, will be a key transport hub for the 2012 Olympic Games, and will be a converging point for the Jubilee underground line, Docklands Light Rail, the new Cross Rail line, and Eurostar,” Cottino adds.

Dennis Jordaan, the Tubelines architect who specified Vitraclad cladding for this project, is an ex-South African architect from Durban who emigrated to the UK in the 1970s. The installation was handled by Astec Projects of Reading in Berkshire; and the contract secured by David Shepherd of Vitrex Europe and Middle East.

Vitraclad panels have been widely exported by Vitrex for several decades. Also known as ‘porcelain steel’, the panels have, for example, been installed at various stations of the Land Transport Authority’s Mass Rail Transit (MRT) system in Singapore, the Mass Transport Railway Corporation (MTRC) system in Hong Kong, Irish Rail in Ireland and the London Underground Limited (LUL) system in London.

The unique enamel finish of the Vitraclad panels is produced by fusing three layers of glass to enamelling quality sheet steel at temperatures of over 800 degrees Celsius.

Vitraclad panels are available in a variety of colour-fast enamels and offer advantages such as colour fastness, resistance to corrosion, a highly hygienic surface, resistance to abrasion, vandalism and chemicals, resistance to fire, heat as well as thermal shock. The panels can be used to provide acoustic and thermal insulation, have excellent electrical

insulation properties, are easy to clean and require limited maintenance. Vitraclad panels are also fully recyclable.

Ends

Caption: The new lift structures for Stratford Station in London, clad with Vitraclad heavy gauge panels supplied by Vitrex.

Ends

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