

HK Audio's COSMO for Stade Mohammed V



Located in the Maârif district of central Casablanca, Stade Mohammed V is Morocco's oldest stadium and one of the most famous football arenas in Africa. Opened in 1955, the stadium has been rejuvenated, enhanced and renamed on multiple occasions. The 67,000-seat venue is home to the nation's two most followed clubs, Wydad Athletic Club and Raja Club Athletic, and also hosts international matches and large-scale international events making it an iconic venue in the country. With Morocco winning the rights to host the TotalEnergies Africa Cup of Nations 25/26, the stadium needed an audio upgrade to meet the technical requirements to host six group matches, one round of 16 game and the third place play off.

The upgrade project suddenly became a priority for the stadium when Morocco was chosen as a replacement host for the tournament. The event was originally meant to be hosted by Guinea, but the slow progress of the country's hosting preparations meant the bidding process was reopened in late 2022. Morocco was named as the new hosts towards the end of 2023 leading to a rapid process of upgrading the six host venues to ensure they met the required standards.

This shortened preparation timeframe meant that there was only six weeks for the entire planning and installation process for the new sound system. To add to this challenge, the stadium itself is a difficult acoustic environment. Only one of the stands has a roof, restricting the positions where loudspeakers could be flown and

meaning that it would require precise long-throw coverage over distances of up to 150 m while maintaining clarity, intelligibility and consistent SPL throughout the stadium.

The team from HK Audio worked with local partner Algam Maghreb, integrator Maghrebnet and renowned consultant Melanie Ziska from SAVE audio solutions to deliver a system that could meet both the audio and timeframe requirements. To meet these needs, 166 HK Audio COSMO series loudspeakers were deployed, powered by over 250 kW of Powersoft UNICA amplification. Advanced digital workflow tools, including EASE 5 with Acousteer for system design and Armonia+ for amplifier configuration, enabled rapid yet precise implementation without compromising performance.

“Delivering a project of this scale within such a compressed timeframe highlights exceptional coordination, engineering expertise and logistical capability,” states Kamal Fandi, BU Manager at Maghrebnet. “Together, we were able to implement a future-proof audio solution that meets the high demands of an international tournament.” “This is an excellent reference project for the capabilities of COSMO,” adds Fabian Reimann, Senior Application Engineer at HK Audio. “The long-throw capabilities combined with COSMO’s adaptable horizontal coverage ensured that we achieved outstanding results for a key venue in a high-profile tournament.”

Following the upgrade, the sound system was put through its paces at various events including the legendary Casablanca derby between Raja Club Athletic and Wydad Athletic Club before the TotalEnergies Africa Cup of Nations 25/26 kicked off. The system received consistently positive feedback on site, both from technicians and organizers. The end result sees it provide a future-proof, tournament-ready audio infrastructure that elevates the match-day experience for players, organizers and tens of thousands of spectators every week.

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