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Press release

Centre for knowledge and sport for all: precision lighting for an extraordinary building

Toulouse, 24 September – The SPIE Sud-Ouest-led consortium, chosen by Hérault general council and its public development firm Territoire 34, has completed the installation of lighting at the stunning new cultural and sports centre in Montpellier.

SPIE Sud-Ouest and its partners put the shine on the new jewel in Montpellier's architectural crown. New architectural centrepiece of the French city of Montpellier, this cultural and sports centre ("Cité des Savoirs et du Sport"), also known by the building's name, Pierresvives, now houses the Hérault department's archives, the departmental sports office and the central lending library. Designed by architect Zaha Hadid, it is remarkable for its innovative architecture.

The lighting system installed by SPIE Sud-Ouest and its partners for this cultural and sports centre highlights the building's lines and structures after nightfall. The facade's vertical surfaces are illuminated uniformly. The lighting also creates varying shades on the edifice's horizontal and sloping elements while avoiding any dazzling effect or of loss of light.

This original highlighting project called for the installation of some very special equipment. Fitted on eight masts, the spotlights used are equipped with custom-built masks which are unique in France (Opticalight technology). Their purpose is to prevent the light from entering the building and to control the shadows cast. They are also used to manage the lighting intensity in specific areas, such as the entrance and steps, so as to provide homogeneous lighting.

The key to the success of this undertaking was the adaptability displayed by SPIE and its partners. "*Lighting up a structure of this type was a real challenge for us in terms of technical process and time spent,*" says Freddy Cambon, Contract Manager of the Languedoc-Roussillon Infrastructure and Networks operational unit. "*Our experience and excellent co-ordination with all the players in this project enabled us to do a fine job and satisfy all the architect's requirements.*" Project participants

Hérault general council (CG34)

Developer: Territoire 34

Leading architect: ZAHA HADID LTD

Lighting design engineering firm: OVE ARUP&PARTNERS

Technical engineering firm: GEC INGENIERIE

Roads & networks engineering firm: PROJETEC ENVIRONNEMENT

Scheduling, control and co-ordination: SCO

Consortium: SPIE Sud-Ouest (leader) and Citeos

Supplier: Siteco Osram

Manufacturer: Opticalight GmbH

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