



Divinycell sets the stage for the Opening Ceremony at Sochi 2014 Winter Games

On February 7, 2014, billions of people all over the world were able to witness the perhaps most epic performance ever of Diab's Divinycell. In a stunning act during the grand opening ceremony of the Sochi 2014 Winter Games, Opening Ceremony, three giant glowing horses built of composites pulled a flaming sun into the arena. The mesmerizing Russian troika, designed by George Tsy-pin, was engineered and constructed by Visual act AB, a Swedish company that develops and manufactures advanced performance technology, including computerized control systems for all types of scenes.

Captivating composite composition

It was the nineteenth-century writer Nikolai Gogol who in his novel *Dead Souls* (1842) made the troika into Russia's most revered national symbol. This imagery is familiar to all Russians from childhood, as most had to memorize this passage in school. But the spectacular Sochi version of the three-horse drawn chariot had everyone gasping.

This is not the first time Visual act works with composite constructions. The 20-people team has designed and built scenography to many theatre and music events all over the world. With over 30 years experience in the production of scenery decorations for both temporary

and permanent installations, Visual act's craftsmen can use practically any material, so the best method for each project can be selected.

On-time delivery crucial

When choosing a supplier, the ability to deliver the right material at the right time was crucial – a requirement Diab could fulfill more than well. To create all necessary structures, Visual act used *Divinycell H*, well known for its excellent formability and exceptionally good mechanical properties at low weight. Diab also assisted with calculations and construction advice. Because of the size of the installation, final construction was made onsite in Sochi and overviewed by Visual act.

The glowing troika certainly made a lasting impression and got a lot of media coverage. We therefore hope to be able to participate in other challenging projects together with Visual act. Below are a few links to articles about this fascinating act:

[Examiner.com](#)

[The New York Times](#)

[International Business Times](#)

Read more about this case on [Visual act production's website](#)