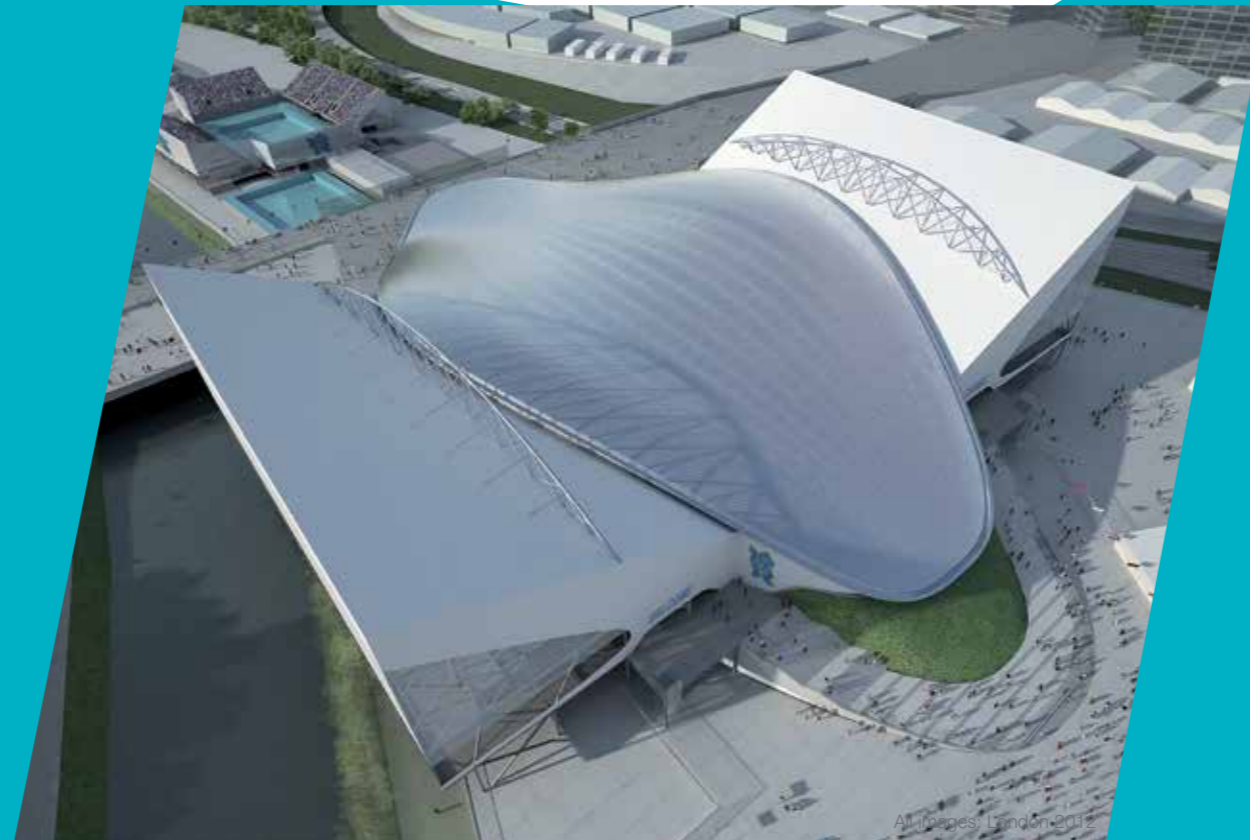


Making a splash for London 2012

The eyes of the globe will fall on London in the summer of 2012 as it hosts the most prestigious global sporting event known to man, the Olympic Games. Over 200 countries will send over 10,000 athletes in total for two weeks of intense competition.



At the gateway to the Olympic Park stands the Zaha Hadid designed London Aquatics Centre, which will be the venue for all of the swimming, diving and synchronised swimming in the Games, along with parts of the modern pentathlon and the swimming events in the Paralympics. More than two thirds of all the visitors to the games are expected to enter the park over a vast bridge that runs over the top of part of the structure, and as the first venue that visitors will see upon entering the park, it was vital that it had a coating system that was up to the task.

The steel fabricator, Rowecord Engineering, based in Newport, South Wales, had a good knowledge of the high performance coatings available from AkzoNobel, and also maintained an excellent working relationship, therefore the specification for the 3500 tonnes of structural steel included products from the International range, which Rowecord knew were capable of providing the desired attributes.

The initial specification called for the steel to be coated using an aluminium metal spray, however, after extensive discussion, it was agreed that the corrosion protection required could be provided by using a zinc-rich primer, and therefore after slip testing, Interzinc 22, an inorganic zinc rich silicate, was chosen. Arup, the structural engineer, had also specified an Epoxy Micaceous Iron Oxide (MIO) coating, and therefore Intercure 384 was selected.

AkzoNobel's Protective Coatings General Manager UK, was delighted with the project outcome:

"It is fantastic to be involved in such a high-profile project as this. The chance to supply coatings to an Olympic project was one that we relished, and we are proud that our high performance, corrosion resistant coatings will be seen by millions of people around the world come July 2012."

This work follows on from the projects AkzoNobel has worked on at previous Olympic Games, including the Beijing National Aquatics Centre in 2008, the Olympic Stadium in Athens in 2004, and the Olympic Superdome in Sydney in 2000.

