



PRESS RELEASE

## Highest World Cup Tribune ever

*Permasteelisa Group completes the façade of the Lakhta Center, the tallest skyscraper in Europe with unique view on the St. Petersburg World Cup stadium and the FIFA World Cup*

*Vittorio Veneto, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018* – **The Lakhta Center in St. Petersburg** offers spectacular views on the adjacent **Saint Petersburg Stadium**, one of the stadiums used during the FIFA World Cup. With its height of **462 meters**, the building is the tallest skyscraper in Europe. In time for the FIFA World Cup, and supported by experienced alpinists, the Permasteelisa Group **has completed the installation of all the glass panels of the tower.**

The double skin façade has been designed and produced by **Josef Gartner GmbH**, the German subsidiary of the Group. The **curved façade** comprises an **overall area of around 14 football pitches** – an area exceeding the sum of all football pitches of the Russian World Cup stadiums.

At a height of more than 300 meters, the latest installed glass panels on the Lakhta Center have been those necessary to close the remaining open parts of the outer building envelope where the tower crane had been fixed. Unlike the other prefabricated façade units, these glass panels had to be pressed onto the curved aluminum frame from the outside. A very complex activity that required the support of skilled **alpinists on the rope**. In January, Gartner had already installed the 13 metres high stainless steel **tower spire**.

The new **landmark of St. Petersburg** is located ten kilometers from the city center, with an air-line distance of only three kilometers to the new World Cup stadium. It is expected to become the heart of a new City thus providing relief to the historical center. In addition to the **Observation Deck**, the building complex also offers cafes & restaurants as well as cultural & exhibition facilities. The office tower, **with a gross area of 163.000 sqm**, will accommodate the headquarters of the **Gazprom Group**.

Like a needle, the Lakhta Center elegantly spirals up into the sky. Around half-height the tower, which has been designed by the Moscow architects **ZAO Gorprojekt**, reaches its maximum width and then tapers into a spire-shape. The floor plan of the building resembles a five-pointed star. As the floor slabs are twisted towards each other, the tower winds upwards by 0,89 degrees each floor. Nevertheless, the tower seems to **uniformly spiral toward the sky**. Such effect can be achieved with cold formed glass façades.

The façade of the Lakhta Center has got a **total façade area of 100,000 sqm** with unit sizes of 2,8 x 4,2 m that gives the skyscraper a very high degree of transparency. At the lower floor levels, the façade is inclined outwards while the upper levels are inclined inwards. For the cold bent glass panels, the planar glass panes have been **cold-bent** by 40 millimeters at one corner in the frame

yielding a flat twisted glass surface that creates an **elegant twist** of the façade at each floor level as well as **uniform reflections**. At each of the five exterior edges of the building, **glazed atria span over two storeys** offering naturally ventilated lounge areas with openable wings integrated in the corner units of the tower. This makes Lakhta Center one of the tallest naturally ventilated skyscrapers worldwide. In winter, the atria serve as a heat buffer and, together with other energy-saving technologies the tower has become a Green Building which is **pre-certified** under **LEED Gold** (International Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design system).

*“The fundamental role of Permasteelisa in this project proves the quality of our innovative and advanced technical solutions, coupled with the ability to turn the ideas of the most visionary architects into reality,”* commented the CEO of Permasteelisa Group, Riccardo Mollo. *“Our extraordinary capabilities in designing, engineering, manufacturing and installation of state-of-art facades and cladding solutions make our Group the partner of choice for the realization of the most iconic and representative buildings in the world.”*

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#### **About the Permasteelisa Group:**

*Permasteelisa Group is a worldwide leading Contractor in engineering, project management, manufacturing and installation of architectural envelopes and interior systems. The Group brings its Know-How and expertise to all projects, in particular when dealing with Special Features Buildings, beginning with the design development phases all the way to the successful completion, achieving the customer's expectations.*

*Today, Permasteelisa is a global integrated Group present in four continents with a network of over 50 companies in more than 30 countries, generating a total turnover of around 1.5 billion euro a year. The Group employs more than 6,000 people worldwide in its Engineering & Design centers and in the 10 manufacturing plants equipped with the most modern and advanced technologies.*

*The mission of the Permasteelisa Group is to design and build innovative and avant-garde architectural works alongside the world's greatest in contemporary architecture, by using advanced technologies and eco-sustainable solutions. The quality of our architectural envelopes and interiors is guaranteed by our rigorous quality control system. Besides, it's constantly improved through R&D in new design and construction technologies and through the use of innovative materials. The use of environmentally friendly materials and eco-sustainable processes, as well as our commitment in energy saving, protect the environment and make the buildings themselves more comfortable and efficient.*

*Among Permasteelisa Group's projects are some world-renowned contemporary architectural works, such as the Sydney Opera House (the first building to make extensive use of the curtain walls), the Eight Spruce Street (a.k.a. Beekman Tower) in NYC, The Shard and 20 Fenchurch Street in London, the Unicredit Tower in Milan and Intesa Sanpaolo HQ in Turin, as well as the revolutionary Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, the extraordinary Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles and the Museum of Modern Art in New York.*

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