



Innovative BekaertDeslee
mattress topper selected by BOIC

Team Belgium will be well-rested at the starting line in Rio

The Belgian athletes participating in the upcoming Olympic Games will arrive well-rested at the starting line as they will receive a specially-developed mattress topper on their hotel beds in Rio. The BOIC and Sport Vlaanderen have selected the Bounce Air Pad, an innovative product developed by Belgian textile company BekaertDeslee. Academic research and tests by sportspeople have shown that this mattress topper increases sleeping comfort. Thanks to the mattress topper our athletes will sleep better, hopefully leading to excellent sports performances in Rio.

The relationship between the quality of our sleep and our wellbeing during the day is an established fact. However, recently extra attention has also been paid to the substantial influence sleep and night-time recovery can have on performance in sports. The textile group BekaertDeslee, specialised in mattress textiles, has extensive experience in remedying sleeping problems in various sectors. During the past two years it has drawn on that know-how to develop a new mattress topper (positioned on top of the standard mattress) to improve sleeping comfort for sportspeople.

Together with CSIRO (Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation) in Melbourne, BekaertDeslee has developed the **Bounce Air Pad**: a mattress topper that consists of 2 layers of high-tech 3D textile with an innovative core of open foam, finished with a special stitching pattern.

A double positive effect

This unique composition provides a double positive effect. On the one hand it decreases pressure, and on the other it improves thermal regulation. And that is just how the mattress topper increases sleeping comfort: it optimises the sleeping environment, causing the body to use less energy and thus benefit from greater rest.

It works as follows: when someone lies on the mattress topper, the light but elastic structure ensures



that the body's weight and the associated pressure points are distributed over a wider surface area. This leads to better ergonomics and improves the sleeping position, leading to improved rest.

In addition, an effect of constant ventilation is created. When sleeping, the body produces heat and moisture. Thanks to the ventilating effect, heat is discharged more quickly and moisture evaporates faster. This thermal regulation effect complements what the body already does itself, and helps prevent sleep interruption due to the person feeling too hot.

Prototype tested by top-level athletes

The **Bounce Air Pad** has been subjected to various tests and studies, including by UGent and during training of sportspeople at Lanzarote. Doing so, the characteristics of the mattress pad were not only checked objectively, but their effect on the wellbeing of athletes in practice was also studied.

In this context, all athletes that joined the training at Lanzarote, all top-level sportspeople working at the Olympic level, took part in the test involving the prototype of BekaertDeslee's new mattress topper. The Swimming Federation was the first to take the initiative to pay attention to sleep quality in addition to training and food. On the recommendation of Centexbel (Belgian Textile Competence Center) BekaertDeslee has been consulted. Finally, the BOIC, together with Sport Vlaanderen, decided to offer all Belgian athletes the mattress topper.

"For a lot of athletes, it is of utmost importance that they sleep well at night to achieve a better performance. Travelling to Rio de Janeiro, the hot climate and stress can make it difficult for them to sleep. That's exactly why we provided every athlete with a BekaertDeslee Bounce Air Pad. We believe this mattress pad will have a beneficial effect on the sleep and recovering ability of our athletes."

Belgian Olympic and Interfederal Committee (BOIC)

Dirk Vandeplancke, CEO of BekaertDeslee: "We are glad that the sleeping comfort of sportspeople is now receiving enough attention. We have known from experience for a long time that our mattress fabrics can have a positive influence on improving sleep. For this reason we are pleased that BOIC has chosen our **Bounce Air Pad** for Team Belgium in Rio. It is an encouragement for our group, which was started at the beginning of this year when the years of know-how built up at Bekaert Textiles and DesleeClama was combined."





About BekaertDeslee

BekaertDeslee is a Belgian textile company specialising in mattress fabrics that is owned by the German family group Haniel. The group was established at the beginning of 2016 when Bekaert Textiles merged with DesleeClama. BekaertDeslee operates at the global level with over 2,600 employees working at 19 locations. Its headquarters are located in Waregem and the international innovation centre is in Zonnebeke.

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