

EMMA  
LOMBARDI  
Triathlon



LUC  
ABALO  
Mentor



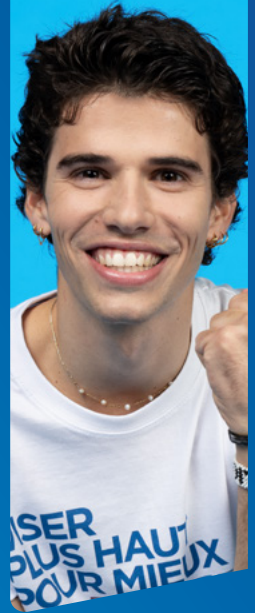
MARGOT  
BOULET  
Para rowing



VINCENT  
MATHERON  
Skateboarding



RENAUD  
CLERC  
Para athletics



ANTOINE  
PRAUD  
Para athletics



LUDVY  
VAILLANT  
Athletics



JULIE  
DUFOUR  
Football



# TEAM SAINT- GOBAIN

press kit  
22 November 2023



#AIMINGHIGHER





AIMING HIGHER  
TO MAKE  
THE WORLD  
A BETTER  
HOME

## OUR MOTTO FOR THE OLYMPIC GAMES!

## EDITORIAL

Last June, Saint-Gobain became the “Official Supporter” for the sustainable renovation and construction solutions of the 2024 Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games. For a French corporation with 350 years of history, it was a natural choice to participate in this historic event that France will offer to the athletic world and its universal values.

The Group joins the 2024 Paris Olympics in its ambition to make these Games responsible, socially constructive, and inclusive, and it provides its savoir-faire in sustainable construction to both athletes and spectators.

Paris 2024 made strong commitments in terms of climate and environmental responsibility, which reflect Saint-Gobain’s ambition: to design and develop the best solutions for sustainable construction, while rising to the global challenges of climate change, the increasing scarcity of resources, and the ramp-up in urbanisation driven by demographic growth.

At Saint-Gobain, we are convinced that without a major contribution of the construction and industry sectors, it will be very difficult to find efficient solutions to those issues. This is the point of our purpose, “**MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER HOME**”, which both guides and compels us, and is a call to action.

Thanks to our position as a worldwide leader and to the strength of our solutions, we can bring concrete answers on the table. How? By ramping up the high-performance renovation of buildings and by making progress in construction methods to make them quicker, lighter, and more resource efficient.

Through its partnership with the 2024 Paris Olympics and Paralympics, Saint-Gobain is actively demonstrating the Group’s responsible commitments and the excellence of its solutions in sustainable construction..

Today, with the official launch of the Team Saint-Gobain of top-level athletes and para-athletes, we are taking a new step in our mobilisation for Paris 2024. This team of up-and-comers on the French athletic landscape is made up of seven strong, determined personalities who will have the honour be supported by the triple Olympic champion Luc Abalo. In turn, they will reinforce the worldwide collective momentum already underway among our more than 160,000 employees. That momentum pushes us to be always **#AIMINGHIGHER**.



Benoit Bazin,  
Chief Executive Officer  
of Saint-Gobain

**#AIMINGHIGHER** is an ambitious state of mind, and it is an invitation to overcome our own limitations to reach new heights.

Like our athletes, who must be **#AIMINGHIGHER** to rise to the extraordinary challenge that is competing in the Olympic and Paralympic Games, we must also capitalize on our shared ambition to go above and beyond to make the world a better home.

**#AIMINGHIGHER**  
**#GAMECHANGER**

# A TEAM SAINT-GOBAIN WHO IS #AIMINGHIGHER



## THE MOTTO OF THE TEAM SAINT-GOBAIN

Sponsoring the 2024 Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games also means supporting the main actors of this great planetary celebration of high-level sports performance.

The Group is delighted to announce its commitment to a Team of seven athletes under the mentorship of Luc Abalo, an athlete with an exceptional track record, poised to lead them to victory.



Each of these seven inspiring profiles embodies the Group's values and carries the same uplifting message:

**“AIMING HIGHER TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER HOME”.**

“AIMING HIGHER” is not only the motto for the Team: it also represents a collective momentum that rallies the athletes and employees of Saint-Gobain. We all share this pursuit of excellence, embracing the strength that will enable us to succeed.

For the athletes, “AIMING HIGHER” means demonstrating their athletic performance at the world’s most prestigious sports event.

For Saint-Gobain, “AIMING HIGHER” translates into offering innovative, high-performance solutions to address tomorrow’s decarbonization issues in the field of construction.

## THE CHOICE OF THE “PACTE DE PERFORMANCE”

To support these athletes and para-athletes, Saint-Gobain chose the “Pacte de Performance” of the Agence Nationale du Sport and the Fondation du Sport Français. This initiative, established by the French Ministry of Sports, aims to assist high-level athletes in achieving both their athletic and professional goals.

In addition to the financial support which improves the athlete’s material conditions, this programme provides support on a human level, as the athletes can now count on all the employees to stand behind them and officially supporting them in their preparation and their achievements.

# LUC ABALO, MENTOR OF THE TEAM SAINT-GOBAIN

To aim higher, the Team Saint-Gobain needed a captain and a mentor. Luc Abalo, one of the brightest stars in French handball, was chosen to lead the way.



## A LOVE OF ARTFUL MOVES

As part of the French team, the recently retired right winger from Ivry-sur-Seine won every possible title: he is a triple European Champion, a triple World Champion, and triple Olympic champion, with medals won in Beijing in 2008, London in 2012, and Tokyo in 2021.

In 289 selections, he scored 859 goals, often defying gravity to achieve such feats. With incredible jumping skills, he demonstrated impressive speed with his left hand and unstoppable inspiration overall. A flying winger with a love of artful moves.

A creative, positive personality with an inspiring career, Luc Abalo will share his experience and achievements, and pass along the values of sportsmanship and performance that have steered him throughout his twenty-one-year career. A long-term “expert”.

Luc Abalo is not only an artist on the handball court; he has demonstrated artistic talent from an early age in several other fields. From painting to photography to video-making to fashion, he tirelessly pursues his creative passions (see page 15). Saint-Gobain called on his talent to take the individual and group photos of the Team Saint-Gobain.



## WHAT #AIMINGHIGHER MEANS FOR LUC :

“In an athlete’s career, the Olympic and Paralympic Games are a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that drives us to outperform and take on new challenges. To do so, we must find the inner resources... Make every effort... Patiently build up a performance that will last... To make that ambition a reality today and tomorrow, we must always aim higher. Today, supported by all the employees of Saint-Gobain, we must aim higher to measure up to the task, and strive each day to make the world a better home.”

# AIMING HIGHER TO PROVE THAT IT IS POSSIBLE

**Margot BOULET**  
 Born on 13 May 1990 (33 years old)  
 in Provins (Seine-et-Marne, 77)  
 Discipline: Para rowing (PR3-Mix4+ category)  
 Club : Cercle Aviron Nogentais

**ACHIEVEMENTS :**  
 2022 : Silver medal at the European Championships in Munich  
 2021 : Bronze medal at the Paralympic Games in Tokyo  
 2020 : Bronze medal at the European Championships in Poznan

**Prove that it is possible to be a woman and join the French National Gendarmerie Intervention Group (GIGN); possible to recover from a paralyzing parachute accident and to reinvent oneself as a high-level para-athlete... Margot Boulet proves that it is possible with her exceptional story.**

At the age of 18, Margot was a high-level swimmer studying biology. At 22, she joined the Gendarmerie with the ambition to join its elite police unit, the GIGN. She passed the tests at her first attempt, then went through the pre-selection week and the physical and psychological trials of a two-month pre-traineeship. Already the only woman among some sixty candidates, she was selected as one of the seventeen finalists.

But during her training year, Margot was seriously injured during a parachute training course. She spent six months at the hospital, underwent seven operations, and received a prosthetic ankle and a lumbar arthrodesis. She had to give up on her dream and leave the GIGN.

To get over this hardship, Margot quickly returned to the swimming pool, but she could not see herself competing again in that discipline. Instead, she joined the French adaptive rowing team, and with them she competed in the Tokyo Paralympic Games, where she won a bronze medal.



## WHAT #AIMINGHIGHER MEANS FOR MARGOT :

“I started out with a core discipline – swimming – which gave me a taste for effort. At the Gendarmerie and later at the GIGN, I realised how closely physical resistance is related to mental determination. After my accident, adaptive rowing made it possible for me to build my life back up through sports. Setting new objectives, achieving something again, feeling a healthy fatigue despite my handicap: that makes me happy to be alive.”

In the Paris Games, as was the case in Tokyo, Margot is competing in a mixed coxless four: two men, two women, and a coxswain. 2,000 meters of distance and maximal cardiac intensity for an effort that lasts up to seven minutes.

# AIMING HIGHER TO CHANGE THE GAME

**Renaud CLERC**  
 Born on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2001 (22 years old)  
 in Albi (Tarn, 81)  
 Discipline: Para-athletics (1,500 m, T37 category)  
 Club : ECLA Albi  
 TRAINING CENTRE: INSEP

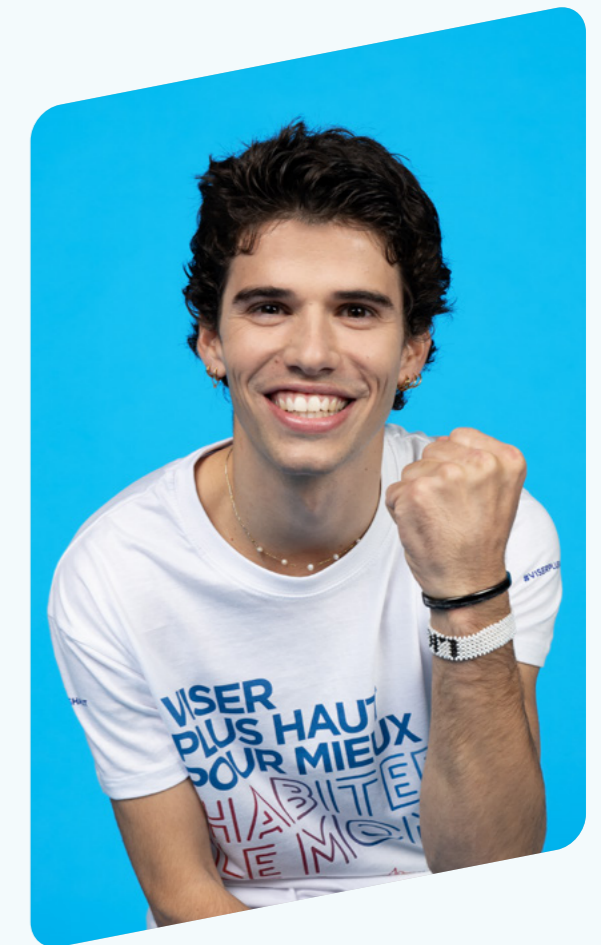
**ACHIEVEMENTS :**  
 2023: 8<sup>th</sup> place in the finals at the Paris World Championships  
 2021: Bronze medal at the European Championships in Bydgoszcz

**Renaud Clerc turned a lifelong handicap into a strength that drives him to set ambitious goals. Today he is a top-level para-athlete aspiring to a medal at the Paralympic Games and a student in the Public Affairs Master’s Degree programme at the prestigious Paris Institute of Political Studies (Sciences Po).**

Renaud’s parents are great athletes who passed along their love of sport and competition from a young age: skiing, climbing, rugby, and kayaking when he entered secondary school. He kayaked with able-bodied athletes, competed at high levels, spent long hours training, and developed a taste for the adrenaline of competition. His ambitions grew with his love of victory and achievement.

Early on, Renaud began to dream of the Paralympic Games. At the age of 16, he joined the French para-athletics team. After racing the 200- and 400-m, the Albi native specialised in the 1,500-m. He missed competing in the 2021 Tokyo Paralympic Games by a single second.

Today he is one of the world’s eight best athletes in his category and is poised to qualify for the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games. While the young student prioritised his studies at the beginning of this Olympiad, he will dedicate 2024 to his Paralympic ambition. To prepare for success, he has decided to train at the INSEP, a national centre for guidance in French athletic excellence. An extra asset to change the game.



## WHAT #AIMINGHIGHER MEANS FOR RENAUD :

“I have been disabled since birth. I have always wanted to prove that, despite my handicap, I could change things around and do as well – if not better – than anyone else. This guides me on the track as well as in the classroom. Last year I invested a huge amount of energy in my studies at Sciences Po, and I had to deal with injuries. Since the summer I have been making a comeback, and I am planning on going into Paralympic mode very soon and very hard!!”

# AIMING HIGHER TO GAIN GROUND

**Julie DUFOUR**  
Born on 29 Mai 2001 (22 years old)  
in Valenciennes (Nord, 59)  
Discipline: Football (attacking midfielder position)  
Club : Paris FC

**ACHIEVEMENTS :**  
2023 : 1<sup>st</sup> senior selection for the French national team on October 27<sup>th</sup> in Norway  
2019 : Winner of the U19 European Championship in Scotland  
Member of all the French youth national teams since 2017

On the football pitch, Julie Dufour plays as offensive midfielder. Gaining ground is an everyday challenge for this young woman who has always demonstrated that football is not just for men. Having recently been selected for the French national team, she hopes to gain her place in the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Julie Dufour got her start in football to emulate her older brother. She played on the neighbourhood pitch in Valenciennes before joining a club where her teammates were boys. At the age of 14, the LOSC club scouted her out, and she joined the girls' section.

In June 2020, she left the northern club to join the FC Girondins de Bordeaux where she spent three seasons before signing on with the Paris FC in the summer of 2023. In addition to aspiring to the D1 championship, she has the Champions League in her sight.

This autumn, at the age of 22, the player was named as a starter in the French national team, and according to coach Hervé Renard she has a bright future.

Her future might just take off in 2024 with a participation in the Paris Olympics.

# AIMING HIGHER TO RISE FASTER

**Emma LOMBARDI**  
Born on 12 September 2001 (22 years old)  
in Chambéry (Savoie, 73)  
Discipline: Triathlon  
Club : Vals du Dauphiné Olympique

**ACHIEVEMENTS :**  
2023 : World number 3  
2022 : World Champion in mixed relay  
2021 : U23 World Champion

In triathlon - a sport that generally takes time to master - Emma Lombardi is an exception to the rule. In just two years, from 2021 to 2022, she went from World Champion in the U23 category to World champion in mixed relay. In 2023, she became the world number three at the World Triathlon Cup though this is only her second season as a Senior.

Emma began swimming at the age of five and discovered the triathlon around the age of ten. She fully committed to the sport relatively late when she was in secondary school. Her performances among the various disciplines in the Junior (U20) and Espoir (U23) categories quickly earned her a place among the best young triathletes in France and worldwide.

Emma joined the professional circuit in 2022 with a 4th place in the first stage of the World Series, followed by her first podium for the Cagliari stage (Italy). These results quickly paved the way for her to join the French national team. At the Senior Championships, she shone in the French mixed relay, and her team won the world title.

Throughout 2023, the young Savoy native has continued to rise, particularly in cycling and running. She is confirming her place among the world's best triathletes. A "rising star", a "gifted athlete", a "young talent", a "prodigy": Emma's precocious flair is unanimously recognised. At the end of 2023, she is the only triathlete in the Top 20 to have been born in the 21st century. While Emma is expected for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, she would like to gain experience at the 2024 Olympics and why not reach the podium.



## WHAT #AIMINGHIGHER MEANS FOR JULIE :

"My objective is to keep the good dynamics of the beginning of the season now that I am part of Paris FC and the French national team. By training and having good results game after game, you increase your playing time and earn your spot on the team. I am more self-confident and have become more decisive, scoring goals and fully working to support the collective effort."



## WHAT #AIMINGHIGHER MEANS FOR EMMA :

"In 2024, I hope to perform, of course, both individually and as part of the team. The French team is lucky to count a number of athletes who are high performers on the world circuit. But I also hope to make the most of this unique opportunity to participate in the Olympics at home in France. Though I want to improve step-by-step, this incredible experience would really help me grow and aiming higher!"

# AIMING HIGHER TO OPEN NEW HORIZONS

## Vincent MATHERON

Born on 15 May 1998 (25 years old)  
in Marseille (Bouches-du-Rhône, 13)  
Discipline: Skateboard (Skate park)  
Training centre : Bowl du Prado in Marseille

### ACHIEVEMENTS :

2023 : 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the Copenhagen Open – Bowl / Pool (Denmark)  
2022 : 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the Tampa Pro (Florida)  
2021 : 7<sup>th</sup> place in the finals at the Tokyo Olympic Games in the park event

Vincent Matheron learned to skateboard at a very early age. Since then, this sport has taken him across the world to meet the legends of the discipline. Today he is one of the world's best skaters.

Born in Marseille, Vincent Matheron first took to skateboarding at the Bowl du Prado at four years old. At this legendary spot, which has seen the world's greatest names in skateboarding, he began to excel in competitions from the age of 14.

When he joined the international skateboarding elite, one of his dreams come true: living in the United States. At age 21, he moved to California. By rubbing shoulders with American skaters such as Tony Hawk, with whom he collaborated, he discovered a new culture and a new way to skate.

The young Marseille native also took part in the 2021 Tokyo Olympic Games, the first-ever Olympics to include skateboarding. He became captain of the French Team in the discipline. Vincent placed 7<sup>th</sup> at the final and immediately began to aim for Paris 2024.



### WHAT #AIMINGHIGHER MEANS FOR VINCENT :

“I always say that in skateboarding, the more you travel, the further you go. And I love to stay on the move, discovering new spots, trying out new ways to ride, and learning new tricks with people who skate for pleasure more than for competition. Opening new horizons is a way to enrich my creativity, which will make a difference at the official sports events. When it comes to the Olympics, I definitely aim for performance!”

# AIMING HIGHER TO GO FURTHER

## Antoine PRAUD

Born on 3 December 2003 (19 years old)  
in Vannes (Morbihan, 56)  
Discipline: Para-athletics (1,500 m, T46 category)  
Club : Handisport Rennes Club  
and Haute Bretagne Athlétisme

### ACHIEVEMENTS :

2023 : 10<sup>th</sup> place in the finals at the Paris World Championships  
2023 : U20 Champion of France at the France Indoor Championships in Metz

Antoine's disability does not stop him from over-achieving. By training with able-bodied athletes, gaining experience with the best para-athletes, and pursuing a dual project, Antoine Praud carries on, above and beyond. His next goal? To run 1,500 m in under four minutes.

Antoine made his sports début on a football pitch. After leaving primary school, the Rennes native progressively turned to middle-distance running. He shares a love of the discipline with his mother, a former high-level athlete specialised in the 1,500 m steeplechase and on-road relay races. He joined a club and participated in several French youth championships.

Suffering from paralysis of the right brachial plexus, Antoine discovered para-athletics in the beginning of secondary school, where he competed in the T46 category for individuals with muscle deficiency in the upper limbs.

He is now a high-level athlete who shares his time between training and engineering studies at INSA Rennes. In 2023, he achieved the qualifying standards to participate in the World Para-Athletics Championships in Paris. An exceptional experience and a foretaste of the Paralympics.



### WHAT #AIMINGHIGHER MEANS FOR ANTOINE :

“I am still a newcomer to high-level sports, but I want to go as far as possible! That is why we, as high-level athletes, are attracted to competition and performance. From trainings to track meets to selections for the French team, each achievement takes us further. I will go as far as I can, and I hope to make an appearance in Paris next September, to live out my dream with my French teammates.”

# AIMING HIGHER TO GAIN MOMENTUM



**Ludvy VAILLANT**  
 Born on 15 March 1995 (28 years old)  
 in Fort-de-France (Martinique, 972)  
 Discipline: Athletics (400 m and 400 m hurdles)  
 Club: Athletic Club Saléen

**ACHIEVEMENTS :**  
 2023 : Silver medal at the Budapest World Championships in the 4 x 400 m relay  
 2022 : 4<sup>th</sup> place in the 400 m hurdles at the European Championships in Munich  
 2022 : Silver medal in the 400 m hurdles at the Oran Mediterranean Games

As part of the French 4x400m team, the role of Ludvy Vaillant is to give his teammates momentum as the first runner in the relay. He is also very committed to the young athletes of his club in Martinique, for which he is a fervent ambassador.

Ludvy discovered his talent as a runner when he once forgot his bicycle and instead ran alongside his father as he cycled. He joined a club and progressively rose to reach the Olympic Games, first as part of the relay team in Rio in 2016 and then both in relay and as an individual in Tokyo in 2021.

He has already achieved the qualifying standards for the Olympics 400m hurdles and won a silver medal at the 2023 World Championships in the 4x400m relay, so Ludvy is well on his way to participating in Paris 2024.

As usual, Ludvy is training in Martinique. A true ambassador for his native island and its youth, the athlete wants to show everyone - especially the younger ones - that it is possible to succeed in Martinique, to have a career, and to excel worldwide.



## WHAT #AIMINGHIGHER MEANS FOR LUDVY:

"I hope that my two participations in the Olympics in 2016 and 2021, and winning a medal in 2023, will bring me the momentum I need to win a medal in Paris. It would reward my steady progression and a great deal of work. It would be a great way to highlight my native Martinique and send a great message of hope to the young people of the island!"



# A SPARKLE IN THE EYE OF LUC ABALO

As Luc stated in 2021\*, « Before even becoming a handball player, I dreamed of being an artist. I had a creative streak even as a kid in school. Whereas some students prefer maths or languages, what I wanted to do was draw, design, and create.»

An inspired, gravity-defying player, Luc Abalo has always kept up his passion for art alongside his professional handball career, attending the Institut Supérieur des Arts Appliqués.

Beginning in 2015, Luc began his artistic career with a collaboration for Paris 2024. The CNOSF - French National Olympic and Sports Committee - asked him to create a symbol to initiate mobilisation ahead of the official candidacy. He came up with the "Je rêve des Jeux" wristband, adorned with flower petals in the French national colours.

Since he retired from professional sports, Luc has been spending more time to his artistic activities: primarily painting, but also video-making and photography. He took the individual and group photos of the Team Saint-Gobain at his studio in Ivry-sur-Seine.

In 2024, Saint-Gobain will once again call on Luc's artistic talents for an original creation to be revealed just before the Olympic Games.

\* Interview with France Info - January 2021

## LUC ABALO IN THE IOC'S "OLYMPIAN ARTISTS" PROGRAMME

This initiative - first created fifty years ago - promotes the creative talents of Olympians and Paralympians. It gives them the possibility to create and present new works of art during and between each edition of the Olympic Games. After an international recruiting campaign, Luc is one of three Olympians and one Paralympian who will present their work at the 2024 Paris Games. Our mentor will create a fresco of athlete's portraits inspired by the Olympic values, in collaboration with people with mental and physical disabilities.

# A PARTNERSHIP THAT BOOSTS THE BRAND'S COMMUNICATION

A partnership with such extensive scope makes it possible for us to think big and increase our brand's awareness!

Firstly, it is a way to rally our 168,000 employees throughout the world. The Group's contribution to the 2024 Paris Olympics and Paralympics, and our mobilisation campaign on the theme "Aiming higher to make the world a better home", is a source of pride for them in keeping with the purpose statement "MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER HOME".

Through our programme of internal activities, we are federating all our employees around a shared goal: to reinforce their sense of belonging to the Group.

Thanks to the programmes that we are and will be offering (see activities box) for running, football, and skateboarding, this collaboration with the 2024 Paris Olympics

is a new opportunity to promote exercise, a source of health and well-being for all.

With this partnership, we also hope to reinforce the brand awareness of Saint-Gobain through greater visibility. Our vision and our values – and, more concretely, our expertise and know-how – will be showcased through the solutions that we implement at the athletes' village. It will also create new connections with our clients and partners, making it possible to concretely promote the solutions we use to build the Olympic Village and more (see professions box). It is a way to appeal to all the talents and future employees of the group who wish to contribute to "MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER HOME".



Laurence Pernot - Communications Vice-President for Saint-Gobain

"This partnership with the 2024 Paris Olympics is an incredible opportunity to gain visibility for Saint-Gobain and to demonstrate our ability to innovate and federate. The Group has been an integral part of the history and economic landscape of France for 350 years. Since then, it has demonstrated a unique ability to reinvent itself, to adapt to the complex and compelling challenges of this ever changing world. Let's celebrate the 2024 Paris Games together, sharing the determination to aim higher... To make the world a better home."

## THREE AREAS OF ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES



The first sports activity offered to employees is running. From September to November, several online internal challenges were organised for a total of 42,195 km, the circumference of the Earth and the equivalent of 1,000 marathons. That objective was largely exceeded, with 300,000 km covered and a donation from the Group of more than €42,000 for the Saint-Gobain Foundation. Since 2008, the Foundation has supported more than 350 associative projects to help outcasts, to provide solutions for the social and sustainable habitat, and to foster professional integration.



Beginning in February 2024, football will rally our employees, partner artisans, clients and tomorrow's talents. In France, "five-a-side" tournaments will be organised in each region. The final will take place in May. Being the most universal sport in the world, each country can also coordinate their own football tournament. The prize for the winning teams? Tickets for the Paris 2024 football games.



Moreover, during the Olympic Games, employees and the general public will enjoy the opportunity to "ride" at a skate park built by Saint-Gobain near its Paris-based headquarters. As part of the "Heritage" approach to the 2024 Paris Games, the structure will be relocated after the events to another city in the Hauts-de-Seine.

## THE SOLUTIONS IMPLEMENTED BY THE GROUP

World leader in light and sustainable construction, the Group is committed to proposing decarbonisation solutions for the building sector everywhere that it operates, limiting the use of natural resources, tending towards a more circular economy, and providing solutions for renovation and light construction.

The Athletes' Village project is an open-air laboratory for sustainable construction, and for Saint-Gobain it is an opportunity to show how its power to innovate and its unique position in the value chain makes it possible to address tomorrow's challenges.

To meet these environmental requirements, the construction materials were delivered by waterway along a sustainable logistics route. The inner walls of the buildings within the 2024 Paris Olympic and Paralympic Village

are specially designed to be dismantled after the Games, and most of the materials will be reused.



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Athletics



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Para athletics



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