The Donbass Arena is the first stadium to be designed and built in Eastern Europe in accordance with UEFA standards for “Elite” stadiums. Construction began in 2006 under the supervision of the general contractor ENKA. The stadium was completed and opened in 2009. The Donbass Arena was designed by a company called ArupSport which also designed the City of Manchester stadium in England and the Sydney Football Stadium in Australia. An unusual architectural decision means that the Donetsk arena is reminiscent of a flying saucer, while inside it has been designed so that the spectators sit in a single bowl rather than in four separate stands. The unique feature of the Donbass Arena is its special atmosphere as it gives spectators 100% visibility of the pitch from any seat in the stadium. 196 seats have been provided for disabled spectators and people accompanying them. The stadium boasts three restaurants, four bars, a bar lounge, 53 fast food outlets, a fans’ cafe, a fitness centre, a club shop and a museum about the history of FC Shakhtar.
When there are no matches on, the boxes and rooms at the arena are used for corporate events (meetings, presentations, press conferences and business receptions), as well as various individual celebrations. The stadium is also able to host international conferences and exhibitions. The Donbass Arena is the home ground of FC Shakhtar and the cultural centre of the capital of the Donbass region. The stadium plays host to concerts and shows as well as football matches. The equipment and sound system at the arena make it suitable not just for local artists, but for international megastars as well.

The Donbass Arena will host some of the Euro 2012 matches, including a quarter final and a semi-final. The stadium management body also plans to apply to host the final of the European championships.

Special features:

- Support for various types of tickets.
- Tickets with barcodes and smart cards.
- Fast and easy access (the capacity of one turnstile is around 700 people per hour).
- The entire project is managed by SKIDATA.

As a leading manufacturer of access control systems, SKIDATA uses the Handshake system to deliver a convenient, multifunctional software platform. Thanks to its open interface, the Handshake system is ideal for use in stadiums and entertainment venues as it can be easily integrated into existing software solutions at both new and existing locations.