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**FAST UNFOLDING TWO-LAYER TEMPORARY FLOORING
STRUCTURE**

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The present invention relates to a temporary dual-layer rapid-deployment ground-covering structure.

10 The aim of the invention is to propose a structure formed from panels, for example rectangular, formed of rigid individual plates made from plastic or composite material, able to be deployed easily and rapidly so as to form a temporary surface or track for storing products or for movement for vehicles.

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To this end, the object of the invention is a temporary dual-layer rapid-deployment ground-covering structure formed from plates, preferably rigid, made from suitable material, characterised in that the said

plates are disposed parallel to each other and are connected together in cascade by a connecting element articulated so that, between two consecutive plates, the said element is connected firstly to one edge of one of the plates and secondly and preferably in a central area of the other plate, the said element defining inter-plate articulation axes parallel to the longitudinal or transverse axis of the plates.

Figures 1 and 2 illustrate schematically a first embodiment.

The plates 1 to 6 are for example rectangular, identical and parallel to each other.

Figure 1 depicts the storage position of the structure and Figure 2 the position deployed on the ground.

The plates 1 to 6 are connected by a flexible band B fixed successively to a half-face of each plate and preferably over its entire length.

Between two consecutive plates, the band B defines an articulated connecting area L forming a hinge and connecting the edge of one plate to the central part of the following plate.

Figures 3 to 5 illustrate the deployment of the plates 1 to 6 of Figure 1 in order to arrive at the

double-covering layer of Figure 2, where the plates are superimposed in a staggered manner and are all aligned in the same direction, which is parallel for example to the transverse axis of the band B completely deployed and sandwiched between the two layers of plates, moreover practically contiguous.

Figures 6 and 7 illustrate another variant in which the articulated connecting element is a hinge C, one element of which is fixed to the edge of a plate 1 and the other element of which is fixed to the associated plate 2, in its central part.

The hinge C is a single one and extends over the entire width (or length) of the plate 2 or is formed from several individual aligned elements.

Figure 8 illustrates a variant in which the plates of the bottom layer (the odd plates) are offset longitudinally with respect to the (even) plates of the top layer. In this case, the connecting elements, for example, of the hinges C do not extend over the entire length of the plates but only opposite the overlapping areas.

This makes it possible (Figure 9) to position two covering structures side by side and contiguous whilst having a partial overlapping of one structure (N° 1) by the other structure (N° 2). Thus there does not exist, between the structures 1 and 2, any area of lesser

strength because of the offset of the top layer of the plates with respect to the bottom, in the two directions defined by the longitudinal and transverse axes respectively of the plates.

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A reversible mechanical locking can be provided between the two structures 1 and 2, for example between the bottom plates of one structure and the top plates of the second structure, in order to guarantee good
10 positioning of the structures and perfect connection between them.



CLAIM

1. A temporary dual-layer rapid-deployment
5 ground-covering structure formed from plates (1 to 6),
preferably rigid, made from suitable material,
characterised in that the said plates (1 to 6) are
disposed parallel to each other and connected to each
other in cascade by an articulated connecting element
10 (B) so that, between two consecutive plates, the said
element (B) is connected firstly to one edge of one of
the plates and secondly and preferably in a central
area of the other plate, the said elements defining
inter-plate articulation axes parallel to the
15 longitudinal or transverse axis of the plates.