

Athens Olympic Games 2004

100 days to go – the temporary seating works on time

Just 100 days to go Nüssli, the Swiss based Special Event Contractor Group, is on time with the installation of approx 45'000 temporary seats for the Athens Olympic Games 2004.

After having successfully executed works in Sydney, and for six other Olympic Games, Nüssli could continue its tradition as a major supplier of temporary facilities for the world's largest and most important sports event.

The Athens Organizing Committee of the Olympic Games 2004 (ATHOC) awarded the project to Nüssli in October 2003, after a six months period of prequalification and tendering, where the prequalified bidders had to submit their technical and economical proposals. The contract comprises the design, construction, maintenance and subsequent dismantling of the temporary seating, inclusive the installations for the press, the commentator and camera positions and other fit out works for the sports venues.

Nüssli is responsible for all coastal venues (clusters) in Falieron, Hellenikon and Vou-lagmeni. The seating will be supplied for Taekwando and Beach Volleyball in the newly remodelled area of Falieron, for Handball, Basketball, Baseball, Softball, Fencing and Hockey at the former Airport in Hellenic and for the Triathlon and Cycling venues in Vou-lagmeni.

Right after the award the Nüssli design team entered into a continuous process with the client, their design and construction managers and other involved parties to develop optimum solutions and to issue binding seating layouts for ticketing purposes. By begin of 2004 fine-tuned seating layouts inclusive options for all sports venues could be delivered for approval to ATHOC.

Especially the extension of spectators seating for the newly built and curve-shaped arena for the Beach Volleyball and the customized seating, which needed to be added in the indoor venue for Basketball, required extensive engineering. To find the best possible solutions studies and analysis such as for sightlines and the evacuation of the grandstands had to be conducted. All the seating has to fulfil strict international safety codes as well as the Greek seismic code.

Parallel to the design phase the preparatory works were pushed ahead for the manufacturing and transport of the approx 2500 tons of material and equipment. The final approval and sign off of the final design was received in March and the works started a few weeks later. By now the construction works are on time, despite difficulties in accessing the site and numerous security measures. The delivery of all temporary installation is planned by end of July, leaving time for the operational staff to take over and prepare the sites for the sports event. A crew

Nüssli is using different modular grandstand systems, such as the EURO-Stand, which offers different riser heights and the required depth of row, but also installs a newly developed grandstand, the so-called "Nüssli Grandstand". This new system made out of a modular scaffolding substructure of steel and aluminium decks provides optimum seating comfort, structural stability and a perfect look. It will be installed with benches and with individual seat shells on different venues.

During the Olympic Games Nüssli will undertake the technical maintenance and prepare for some alterations, which will have to be done during the Olympic Games period. After the Games some of the installation will be dismantled and others transformed to be used for the Paralympic Games.

For more information, please contact

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Attachment to Press release «Olympic Games Athens 2004»



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Legend

- 1 Fencing, Hellinikon, 9000 seats
- 2 Softball, Hellinikon, 2500 seats
- 3, 4 Hockey 1 + 2, Hellinikon, 4000 seats
- 5 Beach Volleyball, Falieron, 6500 seats
- 6 Baseball 1, Hellinikon, 4000 seats