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SYSTIMAX® Solutions Connect 2003 Special Olympics World Summer Games

**Integrated cabling provides fast reliable connections to keep 2003's
biggest sporting event running efficiently and safely**

Fast, reliable communications will be critical to the medical and management systems used at the 2003 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Ireland this summer. In the days before the Games start, 21 sporting and administrative facilities in the Dublin city area will be equipped with networks built using SYSTIMAX® Structured Connectivity Solutions (SCS) copper and fiber cabling. This will provide the fast, reliable LAN infrastructure and telephone connections essential to the success of this year's biggest, global multi-sports event.

Access to medical records is vital to competitors' safety and any breakdown in links with the central Games Management System could inhibit the events completely. To ensure this doesn't happen and that the games run smoothly with minimum risk, the Special Olympics organizers will depend on SYSTIMAX SCS.

More than 30,000 volunteers who run the games and the 1,500 representatives from the media will rely on the LANs for information, results and communication services. So also will the 7,000 athletes with learning disabilities who are coming from 160 countries to compete in the Games.

Organizers will use the networks both for filing results to the Central Games Management System and for accessing information they need to coordinate their events. They will also need links to the custom written software to coordinate the Games' complex logistics. These include transporting athletes and their families from locations throughout the Dublin area and delivery to venues of essential equipment ranging from starting pistols to finishing tapes.

In the event of a medical emergency for any of the competitors, network connectivity will play an even more vital role. Doctors and paramedics will use the networked PCs at each sporting venue to access a database of medical records for everyone who takes part in the Games. Fast delivery of this information may be vital to the contestants' welfare.

To serve these needs, SYSTIMAX PowerSUM copper cabling is being provided to connect terminals across the games sites. The cabling, manufactured at SYSTIMAX Solutions™' advanced manufacturing facility located at Bray in County Dublin, has performance exceeding the Category 5e cabling standard. At the Games, this will provide data communications at 100 Mb/s, however this high performance solution is able to support 10 times this throughput.

The connections will run from the voice and data outlets to modular panel patching hardware. This is designed and manufactured with electrical characteristics precisely matched with those of PowerSUM cables, ensuring maximum end-to-end throughput.

SYSTIMAX® Structured Connectivity Solutions

During the project, the SYSTIMAX BusinessPartner Kedington Ltd. will cable a wide variety of different buildings. These range from swimming pools, and gymnastics halls to the new, 85,000-seat Croke Park stadium, one of the largest in Europe. Where connections are needed to link two patching frames, such as at the main press center, SYSTIMAX OptiSPEED® and LazrSPEED® fiber backbones will be installed.

The LazrSPEED 300 fiber solution will provide longer distance links. Able to support 1 Gb/s throughput over extended distances up to a kilometer and 10 Gb/s over 300 meters, without expensive singlemode electronics, this will ensure network backbones have capacity to handle the highest traffic peaks.

Dan Hughes, Network Manager, 2003 Special Olympics World Summer Games, commented; "Our IT systems are mission critical to many different aspects of the Games and without them events would soon come to a halt, so we put a great deal of development and effort into making them reliable. The same standards have to apply to LAN connections, since many of our systems are entirely reliant on these."

To create the all-important LAN infrastructures, installers will often have to work against tight deadlines. In some cases, access to the facilities will not be available until a couple of days before the events start. This leaves little time for fault finding and fine tuning, so network connections have to work perfectly first time - every time.

Installers also have to coordinate their work carefully with the Games organizers and management at the venues to make certain that outlets are in the right places.



Picture credit: www.sportsfile.com

Choosing SYSTIMAX Solutions makes it easy to achieve high performance standards since they are fully integrated and from a single source. Connectors and cables are designed and manufactured for compatibility with each other, so technicians building the networks can be confident they will perform as expected.

"Using fully integrated SYSTIMAX Structured Cabling Solutions removes any risk of component mismatches, so there is one less concern during the intense set-up phase before the opening day," said Dan Hughes. "We have complete confidence in the cabling and in the SYSTIMAX Solutions' people who are working with us to ensure the networks perform perfectly on the day. At every stage they have provided all the cabling expertise and skills that we need."

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Mr. Dan Hughes, Network Manager, 2003 Special Olympics World Summer Games

During the games, Dan Hughes and his IT team will provide 24x7 support for the key client PCs connected to the network. At their data center located in Dublin, they will also have servers with provision for hot fail-over to a fully configured backup system that mirrors the active one.

During planning, installation and operation of the cabling infrastructure, Avaya will also provide high levels of support. This will be delivered both through its own offices in Bray and SYSTIMAX BusinessPartner, Kedington Ltd. in Ireland.

Commenting on the project, Anne-Marie Kenneally, Vice President, SYSTIMAX Solutions, EMEA, said: “A huge amount of preparation and planning has been needed, but we are delighted that the infrastructure provided by Avaya will contribute to the success of this great event. Reliable, resilient, high performance connectivity is critical in organizing any major occasion such as the Special Olympics, and SYSTIMAX Solutions are designed and manufactured to meet these needs.”

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