



The Games, and the preparations for them, represent an unprecedented organisational challenge for the UK



On Your Marks... Get Set... GO!

The London 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Games start on 27th July and end on 9th September, covering 64 Days of continuous Olympic Events. With 14,000 athletes competing, from 200 countries, 27,500 members of the world's media, 9,800 team officials and VIP's and 9 million tickets to be sold, the Games, and the preparations for them, represent an unprecedented organisational challenge for the UK.

What plans do you have? A light breakfast before watching the cycle events in the Velodrome perhaps? A snack, then full on athletics in the wonderful new Olympic Stadium. Sounds great doesn't it? However, what is happening to your business, whilst you enjoy yourself?

A Survey carried out by Deloitte in October last year showed that over two thirds of large companies in the UK expect the Games to have virtually no impact on their ability to operate. In London, 60% of businesses believe the Games will have a minimal impact with only 16% planning for a higher level. 70% of Retailers expect virtually no impact and only half of the Tourism, Hospitality & Leisure Industry are planning for some disruption.

We must keep a perspective on this as it is not the end of the world. There are many positives and good news messages the Olympics will bring to the capitol. Nevertheless, there are risks. Over the past 9 months I have been supporting and advising several Construction & Facilities Management Companies in developing their risks, considerations and solutions in relation to the Olympics. In this newsletter, I wanted to share with you the 4 biggest challenges facing us all in business over the next year and a half.

Securing the Games. ensuring the athletes, venues and public are safe and secure is a vitally important part of the Government's strategy. Let's not forget, the National Security Level remains at 'Severe' and the security industry will have their work cut out for them especially with the Stratford City Shopping Centre and International transport hubs nearby. These Games will see the biggest peacetime Security operation ever, with over 15% of the UK's Police Forces deployed. Add to that VIP protection, demonstrations and the emerging threats around Cyber Security and CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear) and these are all real risks that could impact on your business. How will you ensure the Security of your business, staff and assets?

Transportation enhancements have progressed well, including specific Olympic rail routes, new trains, upgrades to stations, underground, ring roads and River Thames transport facilities. However, the view from officials is that public transport in London will, at certain times, be beyond saturation point. During an average year some 26 million visitors travel to and stay in London. This figure is expected to rise to more than 800,000 per day. Planned road diversions, at peaks will inevitably lead to delays in deliveries into the centre of London. Full details of these designated Olympic Route Network Road Maps are available online. How are you planning to get your products and services into and out of London? How will your staff get to and from work? What annual leave is planned for key personnel? All these issues need careful consideration.

The risks associated with **severe weather**, including flooding, heat wave or power failure are part of the Olympic Committee's Risk register and should not be ignored. In the Thames area alone there are several flood plains. Do your premises sit inside one of these? Given a heat wave, when does your air conditioning tend to break down? You got it, during the summer. What maintenance and testing programmes do you have in place? Especially when protecting your IT Communications areas. Power failures can unexpectedly occur at any time as a result of adverse weather. Vandalism to cables recently left over 60,000 homes/businesses without power. In 2008, all homes and businesses in the Dartford area were effectively closed down for an unprecedented 4 days. Do you have backup generators, are they maintained and tested regularly?

People Issues. There is a view there will be a shortage of qualified Security Guards to pull resources from. In the UK today we have around 600,000 licensed Security Officers, come the Games some 8,000 additional Security positions are required. This shortage of skilled labour could also apply to other industries such as Waste and Cleaning Management, Building and Maintenance personnel. What impacts will all these have on your suppliers? In addition, tens of thousands of volunteers have been requested to help support the running of the Games. There will be Limited (if any) Hotel & Conference facilities available and your employees could struggle to get to work on time given the transport challenges? How are all these issues going to affect your business.

Are you ready, are you steady?

If you would like us to help, visit our website www.2bcontinued.co.uk or e-mail us direct at trevor.partridge@2bcontinued.co.uk. Full contact details are below. Thank you once again for taking the time to read these newsletters. We hope you find them informative.

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