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Lausanne, Switzerland

Council Decision on the 2013 World Rowing Championship Bids

The 2013 World Rowing Championships bid process commenced in October 2008 when all national federations were invited to submit a statement of interest. FISA received interest from three candidates, Amsterdam (NED), Brandenburg (GER) and Chungju (KOR). Each of these federations was then sent an explanation of the bidding process, the rules of conduct and a detailed bid questionnaire.



During the subsequent months, each candidate was required to complete the questionnaire and support it with the necessary information, statistics, plans and guarantees needed to enable FISA to examine and analyse their bid in detail and prepare for a series of inspection visits in April and May 2009. The same FISA Team then visited each candidate city to inspect the venue and meet the bid committees and relevant government representatives. The candidates were then notified of any issues which the Inspection Team felt should be addressed by the time of the final bid submission. This initial evaluation process was diligent and objective, and enabled each candidate to have sufficient time and opportunity to seek clarification regarding every issue connected with their bid.

On Sunday, 22 June, in Munich, the FISA Council invited the candidates to present their final bids formally. Each candidate was permitted 45 minutes, of which 15 were for the presentation and the remainder was reserved for questions by the Council. The standards of preparation and presentation by all candidates were very high and enabled the Council to form clear and informed opinions.

This candidacy process for the 2013 World Rowing Championships has seen some significant developments over previous years. In particular, it has highlighted the increasing importance that cities and governments attach to the hosting of major international sporting events to serve multiple objectives, such as the strengthening of their national rowing teams, sport-tourism, environmental campaigns and even Olympic bids.

A chart is attached which sets out and compares only the main points of differentiation between the bidding candidates.

Major Factors in the Council's Assessment

The major factors in the Council's assessment of the bids are as follows:

1. Both Amsterdam and Brandenburg have existing permanent land facilities that have been used for many years. Brandenburg will construct additional temporary grandstands and athlete facilities in time for the Championships. Chungju is building new land facilities that have received full planning approvals. Funding is fully guaranteed by the local and national government. The Chungju Bid Committee has provided a construction timeline that promises completion of construction by mid-2011 - all plans have received FISA's input and the construction will be overseen by FISA at 3 month intervals.
2. The Amsterdam and Chungju courses are in place, available and have been used for international competition. The Brandenburg course currently has only 6 lanes but will be expanded to 8 lanes to meet FISA World Championships requirements with completion planned for April 2010. The Council regards the 8-lane course as a critical requirement for a World Rowing Championships. Whilst it is satisfied with the undertakings by the Brandenburg Bid Committee in this respect, and in a situation where bids are being compared, one of the major considerations is whether a course is completed and tested. The Council notes that in this case the Brandenburg course is not yet completed.
3. The Amsterdam bid committee and proposed organising committee have many experienced individuals, having organised international and World Rowing events (including the televised Rowing World Cup). The Brandenburg organising committee also has good experience although slightly less than Amsterdam in terms of international exposure and communication. The Chungju organising committee is not experienced in World-level events, however the bid committee has demonstrated a real willingness to learn, including the appointment of external experts and advisers, and has proposed a detailed and intensive programme to develop these skills through learning and experiential programmes. They have committed to at least one major international event prior to 2013.
4. The FISA Council is committed to the principle of universality in our sport and supports the hosting of the World Rowing Championships outside of Europe at least once in every four years. The post-Olympic year is an excellent opportunity to fulfil FISA's universality pledge. Council notes also that Chungju will create a new and first-class rowing centre for the further development of rowing in Asia.

Council Decision

1. Taking all the above factors into account, along with the more detailed aspects of the bids submitted, the FISA Council has decided, subject to confirmation by the Congress on 31 August 2009 in Poznan, that the Korean Rowing Association be awarded the honour and responsibility of hosting the 2013 World Rowing Championships in Chungju, Korea.
2. The Council has also had extensive discussions, particularly in light of the current global financial situation, regarding the costs to the hosting countries of making a bid as well as the costs to FISA of reviewing and assessing a bid. The Council considers that it would be prudent to secure a high quality Championships for 2014 as well, at this stage. The indications we have received are that governments are under significant budget pressures. It was therefore proposed and accepted at Council to select host cities for 2013 and 2014 this year rather than just for 2013, subject to confirmation by Congress. The bidding cities have confirmed that they would accept either year.
3. Accordingly, the Council also proposes to take a further step and award the 2014 World Rowing Championships at the Congress on 31 August 2009. Considering the strength of the Amsterdam bid, including its strong financial support guaranteed by the City of Amsterdam and the national government, the Council has decided, also subject to Congress confirmation, to award the 2014 World Rowing Championships to the Netherlands Rowing Association to stage the Championships in Amsterdam.

Chart follows.

	Amsterdam	Brandenburg	Chungju
A. General			
1. Organising Committee experience	Very experienced in FISA events, including televised World Cup	Experienced with U-23 and Junior World Championships	Not experienced in a rowing event at the “world” level
2. Financial and other support	Strong support from the City, National Government and NOC. 64% of the bid operational budget funding is guaranteed, making it a financially sound bid	Good support from the local government, but less than 25% of the bid budget is guaranteed.	Strong support from local and National Government Construction costs are fully covered and 54% of the operational budget funding is guaranteed, making it a financially sound bid
3. Host television commitment	Written undertaking from the national television station to provide the host broadcast	Host TV broadcasting not yet guaranteed by the national television company but the cost is included in the OC budgeted	Written undertaking from a national television station to provide the host broadcast
4. Athlete and other facilities	Good permanent facilities	Good permanent facilities with additional renovations and constructions planned in 2010.	Construction of the on-land facilities had just begun at the time of the bid visit. Substantial construction planned. Proposed facilities will be of high quality and built to FISA requirements.
5. Accommodation	Regatta venue is close to the proposed accommodation sites and prices are reasonable.	Accommodation is more expensive than other bids and hotels are located between 10 and 45 minutes from the venue.	Accommodation is reasonably priced and within 30 minutes of venue.
6. Spectator facilities and spectator experience	Temporary covered grandstands offered. Mobile spectator stand for race viewing.	Some permanent grandstands offered. Additional temporary grandstands to be built.	Good permanent and temporary grandstands to be built.
B. The Course			
7. Course layout	Limited space on the course - eight lanes of 12.75m each with no additional space outside the lanes.	Six lanes at 13.5 metres. Construction of 2 additional lanes (to increase the number of lanes from 6 to 8) had not begun at the time of the bid. The planned completion date is April 2010.	Eight lanes at 13.5 metres. Substantial space for separate warm up, cool down and adaptive training areas outside the course

8. Warm up & cool down	Warm up and cool down have to take place within the course with related disturbance to racing.	Sufficient space for separate warm up, cool down areas outside the course	Substantial space for separate warm up, cool down areas outside the course
9. Provision for TV cameras	Road for the parallel television camera, hence no need for an additional catamaran on the water during racing	There is no television road so a parallel catamaran is required on the water using 20 meters outside of lane 8	Proposed road for the parallel television camera, hence no need for an additional catamaran on the water during racing
10. Fairness of Conditions	Possibility of unfair racing conditions in certain weather conditions. The 8-day World Rowing Championships programme allows flexibility for delay or postponement in such conditions.	Possibility of unfair racing conditions with the prevailing wind information provided in the bid. The 8-day World Rowing Championships programme allows flexibility for delay or postponement in such conditions.	Low risk of unfair racing conditions according to the detailed information provided.
11. Adaptive Training	Course will have to be closed for adaptive training with no additional possibilities for adaptive training during normal training hours	Sufficient space for separate adaptive training area outside the course	Substantial space for separate adaptive training area outside the course
C. Other			
12. Boat shipping subsidy	No subsidies offered.	No subsidies offered.	The Organising Committee will provide a financial subsidy towards boat transportation to all NFs and will fully cover all import duties, taxes and inland transport between Busan port and Chungju to offset the cost of boat transport.
13 Development Programme	Free training camp for 100 rowers before the Championships and 100 rowers during the Championships.	Free training camp for 150 rowers before the Championships and 150 rowers during the Championships.	Free training camp for 150 rowers before the Championships and 150 rowers during the Championships.