



PRESS INFORMATION FROM JULY 14TH 2017

Rhein Ruhr City 2032 initiative presents its current sports facilities concept for the multi-city Olympic Games bid of North Rhine-Westphalia for the year 2032

- In the planning paper the different sports are distributed across 13 cities
- State government and municipalities welcome the initiative of a multi-city Olympic Games bid by North Rhine-Westphalia
- Initiative from the heart of the society with strong partners:
“Offer for politicians and sport politics; chance to break away from a parochial way of thinking”
- Olympic Games in NRW as a driver of investment: Connected mobility and digitalisation are the central themes beyond the sport

Düsseldorf/Rhine-Ruhr. The Rhein Ruhr City 2032 initiative of the Sports Manager, Michael Mronz, for a possible bid for the Olympic and Para-Olympic Games in the year 2032 by North Rhine-Westphalia is taking shape. Over the last eight months in close consultation with numerous municipalities in NRW, intensive work has been put into developing a planning paper that in a first step outlines the possible distribution of the Olympic sports between the individual cities of the Rhein Ruhr City 2032. The planning paper is being completely drawn by the private sector.

Regional politicians and the municipalities welcome the initiative of a multi-city Olympic Games bid
Minister President Armin Laschet: “We welcome and are supporting the initiative for a bid by the ‘Rhein Ruhr City 2032’ for the 2032 Olympic and Para-Olympic Games. The unique metropolitan region in the heart of Europe looks back on a long tradition of sport, immense enthusiasm for sport and a sporting landscape that is unique in its diversity.” The Prime Minister emphasised: “I am delighted about the pioneering spirit that the cities involved emanated today and I am convinced: With the aid of a transparent application procedure and the early involvement of the municipalities the widespread acceptance of the citizens can be achieved. Holding the Olympic Games in the Rhein Ruhr City 2032 will provide the opportunity to stage an innovative and sustainable Games. It will create new dynamics for our state.”

More than 80% of the sports facilities and venue locations needed to stage the Olympic and Para-Olympic Games are already available in the metropolitan region today. “The key question we have asked ourselves from the beginning was: How can we put the existing sports facilities infrastructure of the Rhine Ruhr metropolitan region that is unique in Europe to optimal use in order to organise an Olympic and Para-Olympic Games in NRW that is both economically and ecologically sustainable,” stated Michael Mronz.

PRESS RELEASE



Already today, the existing venues hold a capacity of 618,000 spectators in one go. 147,000 hotel beds are available in the Rhein Ruhr City 2032 alone, which exceeds the IOC's demands of 42,000 hotel beds by far.

Distribution of the Olympic and Para-Olympic sports across 13 cities in total

Overall, the current planning paper foresees the distribution of the different sports across 13 cities, namely Aachen, Bonn, Dortmund, Duisburg, Düsseldorf, Essen, Gelsenkirchen, Cologne, Krefeld, Leverkusen, Mönchengladbach, Oberhausen and Recklinghausen. The overall Rhine Ruhr metropolitan region can fall back on 24 big sports centres with a capacity to hold more than 3,000 people as well as 16 stadiums with a capacity of more than 30,000 seats. Nine of the big sports centres offer room for more than 5,000 spectators, five stadiums have an international seating capacity of over 45,000 spectators. On top of this, there is the opportunity to stage numerous indoor sports on a total surface of 704,000m² at the exhibition centres in Essen, Dortmund, Düsseldorf and Cologne.

A further important planning approach in addition to the sustainability aspect is the optimal and efficient usage and exploitation of the sporting facilities in terms of providing a great atmosphere, with the aim of guaranteeing a unique setting for an Olympic and Para-Olympic Games. For example, among others, it is planned to stage the top handball, volleyball and basketball games in big arenas such as the Esprit-Arena in Düsseldorf in front of tens of thousands of spectators. High spectator capacities enable lower admission prices while at the same time high overall ticket revenues, which would contribute towards the refinancing. Games with fewer spectators can be held in smaller arenas such as the ISS-Dome in Düsseldorf, the König Pilsener Arena in Oberhausen or the Telekom Dome in Bonn, so that here the capacities are exploited to the full, which will ensure an appropriate atmosphere for an Olympic Games, both for the respective sports and the participating athletes.

Temporary sports facilities are also foreseen in the planning paper of the Rhein Ruhr City 2032. All of the swimming competitions will take place in the VELTINS Arena for example. Temporary swimming pools would be installed for this purpose so that it is not necessary to build a new swimming stadium. "Our concept enables the different sports to present themselves in a setting that is unique in the history of the Olympics," the Sports Manager stated.

The 704,000m² of exhibition space available enables an enormous degree of flexibility for the indoor sports and underlines the sustainability of the present sports facilities concept. Fencing at the Koelnmesse; wrestling, shooting and skateboarding in the Westfalenhalle in Dortmund; badminton, track cycling, table tennis and judo in Düsseldorf; weightlifting, karate, taekwondo and sport climbing in Essen: the options are unique. "When one considers Los Angeles has 68,000m², Tokyo 100,000m² or Paris has 470,000m² of exhibition space, it gives one an idea of the potential that the Rhein Ruhr City 2032 has for indoor sports," said Mronz.

PRESS RELEASE



Alongside the permanent stadiums such as the Lanxess Arena in Cologne (gymnastics and rhythmic gymnastics), the equestrian showgrounds in Aachen, the SparkassenPark in Mönchengladbach (hockey) or the flexible implementation of the halls, the initiators have also thought about how several striking landmarks of the region can be integrated into the concept.

For instance, it is planned to hold the mountain bike competitions in the Landscape Park in Recklinghausen, BMX at the world heritage site Zollverein or archery in front of Brühl Castle.

Existing outdoor bodies of water such as the Fühlinger See in Cologne (triathlon, marathon swimming) or the Regatta Course in Duisburg (canoeing and rowing) are also included in the planning paper. The only new construction in the planning paper is a canoe slalom course. Michael Mronz pointed out that “it is important that the current planning paper provides us with a working paper, it is not a bid paper. In consultation with the municipalities we will constantly further develop the current planning paper and adapt it in line with new occurrences and developments. That is why it is all the more pleasing that we have so many options within the Rhein Ruhr City 2032 so that we can flexibly react to possible adaptations in a sustainable manner.”

Three themes have not yet been addressed at the current point in time: The Media Centre, the Olympic Village and the Athletics Stadium. These have to be examined in the further planning process and planned carefully, because: “We still don’t know today, where the greatest need for housing is going to be in 2032. But this is exactly where the Olympic Village should be built. We don’t know today whether a club like FC Cologne for instance is planning to build a new stadium. Namely, in this event a temporary athletics track could be taken into account should a new building be erected.

I am friend of addressing situations as and when they arise. At the moment, these decisions don’t have to be made, but of course we are already occupying ourselves with these themes,” stated Mronz. He added: “In the present planning process we want to demonstrate that the possibilities of the existing sports facilities in the Rhine Ruhr regions would make the Olympic and Para-Olympic Games possible at a reasonable cost-benefit ratio and that they are already ecologically and economically sustainable today.”

It is clear that the opportunities resulting from a Rhein Ruhr City 2032 are to go closely hand in hand with an acceleration of essential future themes such as the infrastructure, connected mobility and the progressing digitalisation in NRW. “The Olympic Games are not intended to be purely a beacon project, but indeed as an investment driver in the areas infrastructure, connected mobility and digitalisation, which the people throughout the whole of NRW will benefit from long-term. This is the aim of our vision of a sustainable Games, which is also pursued by the IOC,” Michael Mronz summed up.

PRESS RELEASE



Initiative from the heart of the society with strong partners:

“Offer for the politicians and sports politics; chance to break away from a parochial way of thinking”

The idea for the initiative, which has in the meantime won over the support of six gold partners Daimler, Deutsche Post, Evonik, the Rheinischer Sparkassen & Giroverband, the RAG Foundation, the alliance comprising of RheinEnergie, Stadtwerke Düsseldorf and Stadtwerke Duisburg and one bronze partner (Koelnmesse) as sponsors, first came about in the summer of 2016. “We see the idea of the Rhein Ruhr City 2032 as being an initiative from the heart of the society and as an offer for the politicians and sports politics,” explained Michael Mronz. “Among our partners there is the consensus that the concept of a multi-city bid for the Olympic Games brings a huge opportunity with it for breaking away from the parochial approach of the individual cities and for them to see themselves as a coherent region instead, in order to accelerate and push overarching themes and visions forward,” commented Mronz.

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