

2010 FIFA World Cup™

MRL Newsletter



Edition #26 - 15 June 2010

MRL DAILY BRIEFING RECAP

- MRLs are reminded that the daily MRL Briefings are only available on the FIFA MAX Server as a courtesy and are absolutely not to be used in any broadcasts, as was the case yesterday. The Briefings are intended to serve as a platform for open exchanges of information and should remain confidential.
- As all IBC users have surely noticed temperatures within the complex have dropped proportionately with those outside, in part because the pre-existing structures lack insulation. MRLs should be aware that the ceiling-mounted units in their technical areas can provide both cooling and heating; they are also kindly reminded to make sure all floor-level heating units are unobstructed. MRLs are invited to contact the Construction Help Desk to discuss any temperature-related issues they may have.
- Venue BVMs and General Coordinators are meeting to help determine exact timings of match-specific running orders, which should help resolve issues relating to inconsistencies. Match-specific running orders are expected to be available later today for tomorrow's matches.
- Despite HBS' core philosophy, which is to provide "realistic" host broadcast coverage reflecting the ambience in the stadiums, additional audio filtering has been implemented in order to reduce the drone of vuvuzelas. The filtering has been doubled from -12dB to -24dB on both Dolby and TVIS, which will of course also affect other stadium sounds even though the level of the ball mics has been increased. MRL commentators are also encouraged to try out the HBS headsets, which provide better results than "lip-mics".
- Telkom SA is aware of inconsistencies in the provision of ISDN lines at venues; a software upgrade has already been performed and Telkom SA will continue to investigate the matter. Best efforts will be made to provide MD-1 availability for testing purposes.
- Following MRL requests, the daily FIFA press briefings are now made available on the FIFA MAX Server for 48 hours.
- Upon special request MD-1 press conferences, when available, can be accessed live via a switchable incoming VandA directly from the MCR.
- The JEP parking allocation is being looked into and will be resolved as quickly as possible.

CONSTRUCTIVE ADVICE

"We always have to have a solution. We never just look at the problem, we look at the solution," proclaims IBC Telcom Coordinator Jacques Oelofse of the Construction team at the IBC. Consisting of 11 staff members, the department's Help Desk is the first point of contact for MRLs regarding construction-related issues at the IBC.



Jacques Oelofse, always looking for a solution

The Help Desk, managed by Head of IBC Construction Ronald Den Hollander, has been up and running since 10 May, when the first MRLs began arriving, helping them settle in and smooth out any matters that may have arisen in the set-up of their facilities. "We are the first point of contact if there are any issues like a power outage or if anything is broken and needs to be replaced. Our aim is to help as quickly as possible," says Jacques.

"Keys are the most common request," Jacques continues. "Either lost ones or requests for additional sets. Generally, everything has gone well with the MRLs. I think the only difficulty we had was an MRL needing extra leeway to get their equipment in, but that was communicated in advance so we actually left space open for them to get in and then we just closed it up afterwards."

MRL PROFILE - STV

"It's good to be back!" That is the message from Slovakian broadcaster STV, who are on site at the FIFA World Cup™ IBC for the first time since 1998. "Since [Slovakia's] independence in 1994, STV has broadcast every FIFA World Cup™, but the last two we did not attend," explained Team Leader Marcel Merciak. "We are here thanks to the national team, with no qualification we would have broadcast from a studio."



Thumbs up for STV! Marcel Merciak, Jakub Jagerský and Daniel Visvader (left to right)

It is not just the 12 STV staff who are glad the channel is in South Africa, their viewers will experience top-level coverage with all 64 matches live, and available for the first time in HD. The dedicated sports channel Trojka will showcase every match, while the Jednotka channel will simultaneously broadcast the chosen game of the day.

A lot has changed since 1998, but for STV it did not take long to get their groove back. "We had details from HBS of how everything was going to work, and we were present at the WBM in 2009 so it hasn't been an issue being away," Marcel continued. "Things are much the same as I remember from 1998, although obviously with many improvements." For a smaller broadcaster the need for extensive levels of footage may not be as great, but the services provided are more than enough to cover STV's requirements. "The EBIF Show is really enough for our needs. We only have a population of five million, but of that around 1.2 million will tune in for Slovakia's games."

With continuous broadcasts from 13:00 to 18:00 during the group stage, as well as a 45-minute highlight show after the evening game there is certainly enough to keep Slovakian fans entertained. "For regular matches not involving Slovakia we are expecting around 400-800,000 viewers, for the big knockout games we will be looking for around one million," Marcel concluded.



Help Desk - finding solutions to MRL issues

The task of getting the facility complete has been a real local affair. "It has been a tremendous effort to accommodate all the broadcasters requests," Ronald explains. "Their requirements were all channelled via a South African construction team and supplied by local engineers - it has truly been a 100% local solution."

The Construction Help Desk is located in Hall 6 of the IBC on the north side of the African Plaza and can be contacted at:

Telephone: 010 240 2050
Email: constructiondesk@hbs.tv

MATCH DAY-1 SAD UPDATE

MRLs are informed that it is advisable to always bring the brown-coloured tournament bib on MD-1 to access the field of play. Bibs can only be provided at the venue BIO in exceptional circumstances, and they must be returned to the BIO afterwards.

More details regarding MD-1 procedures will be communicated in the coming days.

YOUTH DAY (16 JUNE) IBC SERVICES

Tomorrow is Youth Day, a South African national holiday. A number of IBC services will be affected:

- The FNB Bank branch will be closed all day
- The dry cleaning service will close at 14:00
- The news stand and convenience store will close at 15:00