

XX Olympic Winter Games in 2006

On 23 January the IOC Evaluation Commission, chaired by Chiharu Igaya, presented its report on the six cities bidding to host the XX Olympic Winter Games in 2006. The candidate cities are: Helsinki (Finland), Klagenfurt (Austria), Poprad-Tatry (Slovakia), Sion (Switzerland), Turin (Italy) and Zakopane (Poland). The report has been posted on the IOC's web site: <http://www.olympic.org>.

The host city of the XX Olympic Winter Games in 2006 will be elected on 19 June 1999 during the 109th IOC Session.



Chiharu Igaya.

Technology

The IOC has appointed SEMA Group, a leading global Information Technology company, to provide services in the areas of systems integration, operations management and applications delivery for the Olympic Movement from 2001 to 2008, encompassing the 2004 and 2008 Olympic Games and the 2002 and 2006 Olympic Winter Games.

As of 1 January 2001, SEMA will become a Partner in the TOP Programme, the IOC worldwide sponsor programme. The contract will be signed on the occasion of the IOC Executive Board on 12 December 1998, between the IOC President and Pierre Bonelli, SEMA Group Chief Executive Officer. This agreement represents the largest sports-related information technology contract ever awarded.

SEMA will be a key participant in the new Olympic Information Technology Group. This group will provide and operate a comprehensive, cost-efficient information technology solution to support the preparation and staging of the

Olympic Games. Further announcements relative to the technology partnership for Venue Results Management and Computer Hardware will be made soon. SEMA will also assist the IOC in developing architecture for a range of Internet programmes for the Olympic Movement.

The current Information Technology partner, IBM, will continue to provide all support and services through the Games of the XXVII Olympiad in Sydney in 2000. IBM has been a TOP partner since 1993, providing state-of-the-art technology to the Olympic Games Organizing Committees during that period.

The SEMA Group is a large information technology company headquartered in Europe and specialized in systems integration. It has long-standing experience and proven abilities in event management. In particular, it provided high-performance technology systems for the Games of the XXV Olympiad in Barcelona in 1992, and to other major sporting events.



(From left to right) Frank Joklik, Pierre Bonelli, A. Barrera de Irimo, the IOC President, François Carrard and Costas Bakouris.