

Sölden (AUT) ready to get FIS Alpine Ski World Cup underway

10'000-15'000 Spectators are expected to make their way towards Sölden this weekend when the traditional FIS Audi Alpine World Cup Opening takes place in the Austrian ski resort. This will be the 9th time that Sölden hosts the opening giant slalom races for ladies and men on the Rettenbach glacier.

With 110cm of snow presently on the glacier at an altitude of 3,249m, the organizers are hoping for a repeat of the favorable weather conditions in which two NOKIA FIS Snowboard World Cup competitions were staged in Sölden between 15th-16th October.

Sölden is the first stop on an extensive alpine tour which will stage events at 31 different locations across the world before the season ends with the FIS Alpine Skiing World Cup finals in Are (SWE) from 15th-19th March 2006.

In Sölden, the ladies' event takes place on Saturday with the men's race the next day. Last season's overall winner in the Men's Giant Slalom World Cup was Benjamin Raich (AUT) while Finland's Tanja Poutiainen triumphed in the Ladies' overall Giant slalom World Cup. You may find the complete program for Saturday's and Sunday's competitions here: http://www.fis-ski.com/uk/604/1228.html?event_id=18194&cal_suchsector=AL

And for those who are not in Sölden to watch the competitions, in addition to extensive live television coverage, timing and data from the races can be viewed live on-line on the FIS Website.

Düsseldorf to turn into snow paradise for Cross-Country World Cup opener

The asphalt will be covered with 4000 cubic metres of snow and the streets will become a ski course when Düsseldorf gets the FIS Cross-Country World Cup under way with a Men's- Ladies' Sprint and Team Sprint event on 22nd and 23rd October. To get spectators in the right spirit for Saturday's and Sunday's competitions, a small snow village will be set up on Friday with activities taking place for Cross-Country supporters of all ages. 43 hours prior to Saturday's opening event, 4000 cubic metres of snow which has been produced at the JEVER ski hall slightly outside of the city since August by the latest snowmaking technology will be brought into the Rhineland metropolis by no less than 150 trucks in order to cover the 1.5 km course along the Düsseldorf Rhine promenade.



This will be the fourth successive time that Düsseldorf hosts the Cross-Country season-opener which will be broadcast live on German television channel ARD. In total athletes will travel to no less than 17 different locations across the world during the FIS Cross-Country World Cup competition before the season finally ends in Sapporo (JPN), host of the 2007 FIS Nordic World Ski Championships, on 19th March 2006. You may find the program for the complete event here: <http://www.fis->

[ski.com/uk/604/1228.html?event_id=17225&cal_suchsector=CC](http://www.fis-ski.com/uk/604/1228.html?event_id=17225&cal_suchsector=CC)

Live timing and data from the races is available for all FIS Cross-Country World Cup races and can be viewed live on-line on the FIS Website

Sölden (AUT) a perfect host for NOKIA FIS Snowboard World Cup competitions

After Valle Nevado (CHI), Landgraaf (HOL) and Rotterdam (HOL), had gotten the NOKIA FIS Snowboard World Cup off to a flying start, the athletes headed for the Austrian Alps where Sölden provided a magnificent back-drop for the action on 15th and 16th October.

It was the fourth successive year that the Austrian ski resort hosted Parallel Giant Slalom competitions (for ladies and men) on the Rettenbach glacier. The first eight gates of the PGS began on the steep pitch of the alpine course, leveling out into the tricky flats before finishing off with rolls at the bottom of the course.

125 athletes from 21 nations took part in the ladies' competition while 131 athletes from 21 nations competed in the men's event. Both competitions were staged in glorious weather conditions. While Switzerland swept the Men's competition with four athletes in the first four spots, France's Isabelle Blanc won the Ladies' competition in front of Amelie Kober (GER) and Daniella Meuli (SUI). You may find all the results from the events in Sölden here: http://www.fis-ski.com/uk/604/1228.html?event_id=19463&cal_suchsector=SB

13th edition of Forum Alpinum in Sölden (AUT)

As part of the program to welcome a new FIS Alpine World Cup season, Sölden will welcome members of the press, national ski associations, local organizing committees, athletes and representatives of FIS to the Forum Alpinum on Friday 21st October.

This will be the 13th time that the Sölden Freizeit Arena hosts the information forum

for the media. FIS represented by President, Gian-Franco Kasper, General Secretary, Sarah Lewis, Marketing and Communications Director, Christian Knauth as well as the FIS Chief Race Directors for the Alpine disciplines Günther Hujara and Atle Skaardal will offer a thorough introduction to the new season in terms of discussing decisions from the FIS meetings, presenting new initiatives, etc.. Representatives of National Ski Associations presenting information about their teams, programs and aspirations for the coming season as well as key persons from TOROC (Torino Olympic Organising Committee), organizers of the 2007 FIS Alpine World Ski Championships in Are (SWE), as well as the humanitarian organization "Right to Play" will also be at the media's disposal during the Forum Alpinum.

FIS and DSV publish special book on skiing and art

To commemorate the 80th anniversary of FIS and the 100th anniversary of the German Ski Association which will be celebrated on 5th November 2005, the International Ski Federation will publish a book called "Skisport in der bildenden Kunst" ("Skiing in the form of Art"). The book which has been compiled by distinguished German author, Prof. Dr. Günther Witt, has been produced in co-operation with the DSV (the German Ski Association), Paul Flora and German publishing company, Edition Leipzig.

The book presents amongst others no less than 100 pictures of drawings, paintings, graphics and caricatures illustrating the evolution of skiing from the early beginning to present time. Following its publication in September "Skisport in der bildenden Kunst" will be presented at the prestigious Frankfurt Book Festival at the end of October.