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# Holland Sports & Industry • • •

#### FOREWORD MINISTER VAN ARK

Congratulations on a new yearbook "Holland Sport & Industry", in which companies with a heart for sports are once again displayed.

No one could have predicted that the COVID-19 crisis was going to be such a dominant factor this year. Unfortunately, many plans and activities have been canceled or postponed, such as the Tokyo Olympics and the Invictus Games in The Hague.

Especially in these times we see the importance of innovation and entrepreneurship. There is a lot of demand for innovations, for example in the fields of sustainability and physical activity, because health has acquired a more central role. Due to the good networks created by organizations such as the Orange Sports Forum, these innovations will reach the right partners. That is why I am confident that we will get out of this crisis together, stronger than before.

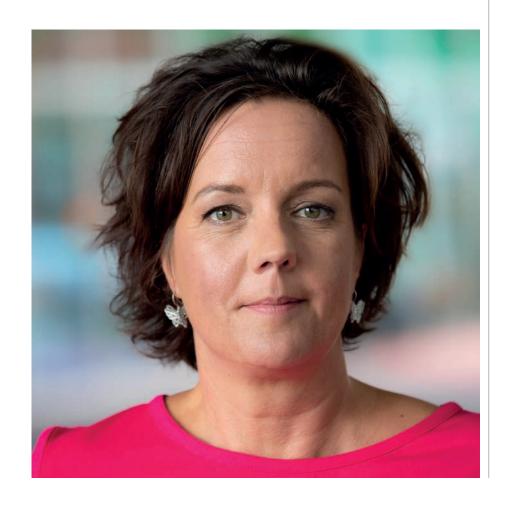
This cabinet is committed to helping Dutch innovative companies find their way to the rest of the world. An example of this is the assignment given to the Topteam Sport, which has set up fourteen Sportinnovator centers across our country. Where researchers, entrepreneurs, governments and sport can work together on innovative ideas. You can read more about this in this yearbook.

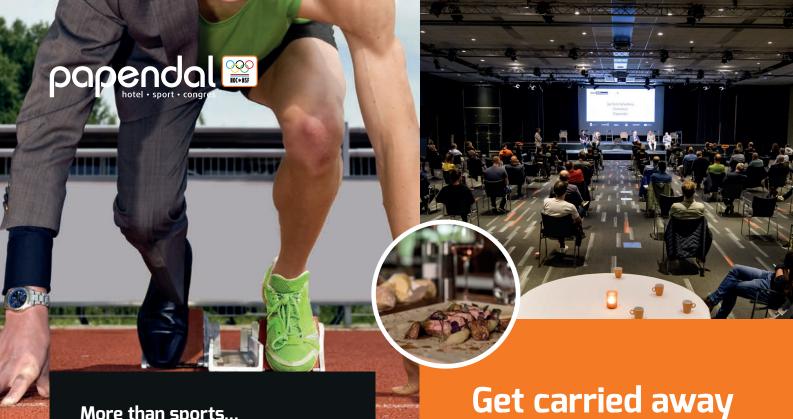
In addition to maintaining a network of companies in the Netherlands, the Orange Sport Forum has been active in 2020 to find the way to other countries. Working hard on a Partners for International Business program together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the RVO and my own ministry to expand the network to the United States in the coming years. I am very curious to see what all that will yield.

Together we are working hard on the ambition to be a leading innovative partner for foreign partners. Keep it up!

Tamara van Ark,

Minister for Medical Care and Sports





#### More than sports...

Papendal is part of the Dutch Olympic Committee NOC\*NSF and is, since 1971, home to the Dutch Elite athletes. Papendal is, with it's unique terrain, the biggest trainingcentre of many Olympic disciplines. But there is so much more happening @Papendal than just sports, which is still unknown to many people.

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by the power

of sports.

#### **FOREWORD**

Dear Sports Friends,

We proudly present to you the 2020/2021 Holland Sports & Industry yearbook.

The yearbook has served as an important reference book for the Dutch sports industry for many years, and it provides an overview of the enormous diversity of Dutch companies, organisations and institutions associated with sport. The yearbook is therefore widely used by embassies, consulates, companies, sports associations and other relevant sports organisations and institutions. We are proud to issue this year's yearbook in collaboration with Sportinnovator!

The year 2020 has been a time of many challenges for the international sports world. COVID-19 has had a great impact and will possibly change the way international business is done. Nevertheless, it is great to see that so many companies have been able to adapt immediately and deliver fantastic projects and achievements in times like these! Moreover, sport, exercise and a healthy lifestyle are increasingly seen as essential if you want to avoid injuries, illnesses and healthcare costs.

Orange Sports Forum put in a successful year in challenging conditions, supporting many companies as they took their first steps onto the international stage. We started several great new projects, including the creation of a cluster of 20 complementary companies in the areas of sport (-tech), vitality and innovation. Realised in the United States through a public-private partnership, this PIB program ("Partners for International Business") will be managed by the Dutch Consulate General in Miami and will, of course, give rise to various opportunities for the Dutch business community in connection with major events like the World Cup (2026).

In addition, OSF has become a partner in the European Hockey Federation's long-term Erasmus+ project for the establishment of a 'European Institute of Hockey'. We have also concluded various highly satisfactory collaborations with European clusters and a number of organisations from outside of Europe. Ultimately, this will yield valuable entry points abroad and will result in new long-term partnerships.

The year 2021, with its sporting highlight of the Olympic Games in Japan, will certainly offer plenty of opportunities to our members. It goes without saying that we will continue to support entrepreneurs just starting out on their international journey, and that our cooperation with the Sports & Technology and FGHS sports clusters will only be increasing in intensity. So, you can be sure that 2021 will be a year in which we continue to assist and represent our participants with efficiency and effectiveness.

We wish you happy reading and a healthy 2021!

With sporting greetings,

Orange Sports Forum Foundation



Arun SwamiPersaud



Camil Smeulders



John van de Laai



Rick Sleegers



Marielle Wiegmans



Nico Delleman



The Stadium Consultancy is a boutique consultancy and project management company for the stadium and sports facility industries. Since our establishment in 2006, we have been involved in nearly 100 projects worldwide for clients, which include FIFA, UEFA, professional football clubs, sports associations and municipalities.



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# Holland Sports & Industry ● ● ●

#### Chair of the Top Team for Sport - Sportinnovator

#### **FOREWORD**

#### **BY HARRY VAN DORENMALEN**

Dear Sports Friends,

I am honored to be able to contribute to this Holland Sports & Industry 2020 - 2021 yearbook with a special supplement about Sportinnovator. The yearbook not only serves as an important reference work for the Dutch sports industry, but it also provides an overview of the enormously diverse range of Dutch companies, organisations and institutions that are associated with our sports sector. It is a highly valuable network for the club that I am chair of: Sportinnovator's Top Team for Sport.

What exactly does Top Team for Sport actually do, you may be wondering. I would like to provide a brief outline. Sportinnovator is the Netherlands' sports innovation network. We identify innovations in sports, evaluate them, encourage improvements and help them to scale up. These innovations not only benefit sports, but also wider society as a whole. Because we believe that sports innovations should also have a societal impact. This Sportinnovator special edition presents a number of fine examples of this.

The Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport (VWS) created the Top Team for Sport in 2014. In recent years, Sportinnovator and the Top Team have evolved to become a much larger operation than they were in the early days. That sounds simple, but it is the best way of describing our progress.

For example, to begin with our infrastructure consisted mainly of data in spreadsheets, while today Sport Data Valley provides us with a genuinely national digital infrastructure.

In the field of innovation, we started out as a kind of agency for innovation in the field of sports, focusing on what was happening at the various sports innovation centres in our country. We still have that role today, but our activities are now on a much larger scale and all VWS Challenges are channelled through the Sportinnovator formula. Sportinnovator has already worked on over 600 innovations.

In our early days, we were mainly concerned with structuring our own organisation, but now we are part of a much larger ecosystem that includes the Dutch Sports Council, NOC\*NSF (the Dutch Olympic Committee and Dutch Sports Federation), and many others. We also have international ambitions and communicate regularly with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European institutions and organisations.

Some time ago, I spoke to an American diplomat and he asked me what trick we were trying to pull off with the Sportinnovator. My answer was simple: the same trick that the Netherlands generally pulls off - better organisation and cooperation. At Sportinnovator, we do this using the quadruple-helix model, which brings together sports, the business community, science and the public sector. We also have



In 2018, Bruno Bruins - then Minister for Medical Care & Sport - signed the National Sports Agreement together with representatives of sports, the business community, local authorities and civil society organisations. That agreement was entitled: 'Sport brings the Netherlands together.' The Sports Agreement aims to make sport as fun and accessible as possible for all Dutch people, in all stages of life. This helps to ensure that we tap into the full potential of sports and exercise. In 2018, the Top Team for Sport was given an additional responsibility by the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport – to promote innovation as part of the National Sports Agreement. With its innovation programme, Sportinnovator can be seen as the CTO of this Sports Agreement.

the right expertise – we know what we are talking about. And like all Dutch people, we are quite good at separating the wheat from the chaff. This is especially useful in our work at Sportinnovator. We need to take the right decisions quickly – this looks promising, this looks less useful. No messing around. Because what we want to avoid at all costs is endless bureaucracy. So we stay focused on results. Making an effort is great, but achieving results is what counts.

I hope you enjoy reading about the work that we do!



#### Striving for a vital society

At the Knowledge Centre for Sport & Physical Activity Netherlands, we believe that our expertise can help improve the quality and effectiveness of sport and physical activity and therefore contribute to a more vital society. A society in which people are able to take part in sports and other physical activity in a proper, safe and enjoyable way.

#### Applying knowledge every day

The Knowledge Centre for Sport & Physical Activity (Kenniscentrum Sport en Bewegen in Dutch) ensures that scientific, policy and practical expertise is made available for use by professionals in the field.

We support community sports coaches and other professionals in their efforts to ensure that the elderly, people with a disability and people from disadvantaged areas are also able to take part in society. We also support general practitioners and nurse practitioners who want to help their patients become more active. We advise teachers who want to motivate their pupils to take part in a sport or other physical activity. We help policy advisers to develop a future-proof policy for sports clubs, to expand their network, and to design the local environment in a way that encourages physical activity. We also support sports administrators in their ambition to create a safe sporting environment that is based on fair play and respect for all. Elite athletes also profit from our work. By keeping trainers and coaches up-to-date with the latest scientific insights, they have the tools to take sporting performance to a higher level.

We are developing practical step-by-step plans, computer models, guidelines and methodologies in partnership with universities, knowledge centres, policymakers and professionals in the field. This helps professionals achieve objectives and provides them with the motivation to apply their knowledge in their day-to-day practice.

#### Your independent gateway to sport in NL

The Knowledge Centre is an independent knowledge institute and is funded by the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports (VWS) in the Netherlands. We are a member of a number of international networks, such as Tafisa and HEPA. We participate in European Erasmus+ Sport projects such as Europe in Action and InSport.

We can serve as your gateway to the Netherlands, in various ways:

- Sportfolio presents an overview of projects which are showcasing opportunities for other countries and companies to join forces.
- The online Guide to Sport and Physical Activity in the Netherlands gives an overview of the facts and figures of sport and physical activity in our country.
- Find publications in the knowledge database for sports and physical activity. The database contains both Dutch as English publications.
- Exchange of knowledge about effective programmes and good practices in other countries through visits, workshops and international or EU-projects.
- We can help you get in contact with successful projects and effective interventions.

Please visit our website www.kenniscentrumsportenbewegen.nl/en to find out more about us.

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#### COLOPHON

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Yearbook Holland Sports & Industry is a
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#### Coverphoto

Photo by Cor Vos

#### 2020 UCI ROAD WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 1 Anna van der Breggen (NED)
- 2 Annemiek van Vleuten (NED)
- 3 Elisa Longo Borghini (ITA)

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#### La Gro Geelkerken advises entrepreneurs at home and abroad

When faced with a legal challenge, you will want lawyers who take quick and decisive action. These lawyers can be found at La Gro Geelkerken: we can help you with effective solutions thanks to our thoroughness, decisiveness and proactive approach.

#### **Our Asia Practice**

With more than 12 years of experience, we have become one of the leading legal Asia experts in the Netherlands. The members of our Asia team provide legal and business advice to Dutch companies planning to do business in Asia and Asian companies planning to do business in Europe.





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#### **BREAKTHROUGH**

#### FOR DUTCH TRUEKINETIX:

#### FIRST ROBOTIZED BICYCLE

#### TRAINER IN THE WORLD

#### International interest for this innovation: an indoor bike 'without a flywheel'

The Dutch scale-up TrueKinetix has launched the TrueBike: the first robotized indoor bike in the world. When training indoors, the TrueBike provides exactly the same experience and resistance as outdoor, something that existing indoor bikes don't offer. To meet the growing demand, a new factory was opened in Hillegom. From abroad there is also a lot of interest in this Dutch invention.



#### **David versus Goliath**

In Hillegom 2000 to 4000 indoor bikes can be produced per year. TrueKinetix is already planning to expand into other countries and is in the process of opening an office in Atlanta, USA. Inventor and triathlete Bas van Rens developed the TrueBike after he discovered that he couldn't perform the right training work on existing indoor bikes. He quit his job as international CEO of sports data company Mylaps, turned his passion into his company and developed the innovative indoor bike with the help of his expertise in mechanical engineering. In doing so, he took on the role of 'David versus Goliath' against such established names in the cycling world as Tacx and Wahoo. With success, because TrueKinetix received a subsidy from the RVO innovation fund and won both the Dutch Sports Innovation Award and the Bike Motion Award.

#### This really feels like cycling outdoors

Triathlete Van Rens is still a fanatic athlete. He says about the TrueBike: "Many indoor cyclists, from beginners to professionals, recognize from their own experience that indoor cycling gives a different load than outdoor cycling. You strain other muscles and the power output just don't match. With the TrueBike, they find that the effect of indoor cycling really is more like riding outdoors. Users find their training more realistic and effective".

#### **About TrueKinetix**

TrueKinetix wants to help people get and stay fit and healthy by offering the new standard in indoor cycling. TrueKinetix was started in 2016 by the rebellious Dutch triathlete Bas van Rens, who felt that indoor training should be much more effective. The TrueBike is based on the TrueForce technology developed and patented by TrueKinetix, making it the first - robotic - indoor bike that truly mimics the resistance experienced outdoors.

This makes indoor cycling not only more fun, but also more effective. NOC\*NSF (Dutch Olympic organization) was the first customer in 2018 and last year TrueKinetix won several awards, such as the Bike Motion Award and the Dutch Sports Innovation Award. Since then, many cyclists, time trialists and triathletes have embraced the TrueBike as their favorite indoor training bike.



#### **Goodbye Flywheel**

The Netherlands has 440,000 fanatical cyclists of whom 330,000 train indoors during the winter months. Then it gets too cold, too wet and too dark outside and on top of that: also unsafe in traffic. However, the existing indoor bikes cannot mimic the experience and resistance of outdoor cycling. This is because they use a flywheel. That is too light and therefore athletes pedal different watts and train the wrong muscle groups.

#### Missed qualification for Ironman Hawaii leads to a eureka

Van Rens found out in a painful way. After a winter of hard training on an indoor bike, he missed qualifying for the famous Ironman triathlon in Hawaii because he was eight minutes too slow. He looked for the solution in a heavier flywheel, until he experienced his eureka moment in an electric car.

"There I realized that you can also use an engine to create the right resistance. We added a robot to the motor to make sure that the pedals have exactly the right resistance. This is how we developed the first robotized indoor bike that can simulate anything you experience outdoors. You can now train the right muscle groups and cycle the Tour de France at home with the same resistance and watts as in real life," says Van Rens.

#### The TrueBike can now be coupled with the popular cycling app Zwift

His new indoor bike has been successfully tested and further developed over the past year. Last year the renewed TrueBike was bought and tested by fifty athletes (TrueFriends), both at home and in the 'paincave' in Hillegom, the cycling equivalent of the 'mancave'. Thanks to their feedback, the indoor bike further improved. For example, the TrueBike can now be coupled with the popular indoor cycling app Zwift.



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#### THE ROYAL DUTCH LIFESAVING

#### **ASSOCIATION (KNBRD)**



#### **Our Organisation**

The Royal Dutch Lifesaving Association (KNBRD: Koninklijke Nederlandse Bond tot het Redden van Drenkelingen), was founded in 1917. We unite 157 local lifesaving committees with a total of nearly 23,000 members. Our well-trained volunteers, including 2,750 lifeguards, are active on the coast, at inland waters and in swimming pools.

The headquarters of the **Royal Dutch Lifesaving Association** is located in IJmuiden and had 21 employees at the end of 2019.



#### Our mission

More safety in, on and along the water.

That is the goal for which the lifesavers and lifeguards of the Lifesaving Association volunteer on a daily basis. We do our utmost to ensure that no one drowns and that everyone can safely enjoy the abundance of water in the Netherlands.

#### **Our vision**

The Netherlands is a land of water. The Lifesaving Association wants everyone to enjoy the water in a safe way. We undertake and organize numerous activities do this, being the only rescue organization active in the whole of the Netherlands.

We are teaching people to swim and to learn how to save themselves and others. We train people to carry out specific tasks, such as skipper of a lifeboat, driver of a rescue watercraft and driver of a rescue brigade vehicle. We provide information to the general public. And of course we keep (preventive) supervision of the safety of people who are active in, on and near water. We provide assistance if necessary. This is how we make safe water fun possible.

#### The Netherlands – a country of water:

The Netherlands is a country of water. Much of the land is located along or near the coast. About a third of the Netherlands is below sea level. We only keep our feet dry with mills, dikes, locks, pumps and other technical ingenuity. With all that water around us, a properly functioning Lifesaving Association is of utmost importance.

#### **Lifesaving Association Netherlands:** a volunteer organization

The work of the Lifesaving Association can only be done thanks to the efforts of thousands of volunteers. The set-up and structure of the Lifesaving Association is comparable to that of sports associations and sports clubs in the Netherlands. Local organized clubs, the local lifesaving committees, are organized



by volunteers. The local committee itself is responsible for financing, recruiting volunteers, accommodation, arrangements with local authorities, member affairs, etc.

The headquarters, located in IJmuiden, supports the local brigades with information material, knowledge about training and education, agreements with national government and cooperation partners, support for the local committees and the registration of diplomas and licenses. Also located in the headquarter is the service center: Maintenance of boats and outboard engines of the local committees is carried out in the most professional way.

The headquarters is developing into a national knowledge center for local committees and other stakeholders.





#### **Financing**

In order to continue to do our work in a proper and safe way, we need more than just people. Training, rescue equipment and the execution of our work all year round; all this costs a lot. Our own volunteers / members contribute to this by means of a contribution. Other sources of income are i.e grants, specific assignments by the government, co-operation projects, gifts and sponsoring.

#### The activities of Lifesaving Association Netherlands

The work of the Lifesaving Association covers a number of areas. On the one hand, we are the organization that provides supervision and surveillance on a large part of the Dutch beaches. We do this on the coast as well as near recreational lakes in the inland. On the other hand, we teach children, young people and adults to swim. Both elementary swimming, the well-known A, B, C, diploma's (known in the Netherlands) as well as the specific lifesaving swimming diploma's.

Lifesaving is a recognized sport. Therefore, the Lifesaving Association Netherlands is also a member of the Dutch Olympic Committee (NOC \* NSF) and supports the organization of (inter) national competitions and tournaments.

The main activities of the Lifesaving Association Netherlands are:

- 1. Information
- 2. Education & training
- 3. Water rescue and assistance
- 4. National Rescue Fleet
- 5. Lifesaving sport
- 6. Service Center



#### 1. Information

The Lifesaving Association provides information on how to prevent drowning. We advise the general public and other stakeholders what is needed to increase water safety. We develop training, standards and innovations. We work together with the regional safety regions, municipalities and medical aid institutions, but also with swimming pools, schools and recreational organizations. In our cooperation with knowledge institutions and our international umbrella organizations ILS and ILSE we our constantly looking for improvement. Because in the event of a (nearly) drowning, every second counts. We want to be there; that is what drives us every day.

To reach the general public, we work closely with national, regional and local media. The summer of 2020 was an extraordinary summer. Because of Corona many people stayed in the Netherlands. And it was extremely hot for a number of weeks. Many people visited the Dutch beaches. At the same time, the weather conditions on the beach were extremely dangerous due to wind and sea currents. The number of rescues was in 2020 significantly higher compared to other seasons.





#### 2. Education & Training

The Lifesaving Association teaches children to swim properly and encourages them to keep swimming. Furthermore, Lifesaving Association Netherlands trains children to become lifesaver, so that they can save themselves and others.

We also train (young) people to become a lifeguard with a sense of responsibility. A lifeguard understands his trade and can provide first aid to those who are drowning. Our Education & Training scheme is well thought out and based on the motivation of skilled volunteers

#### 3. Water rescue and assistance

The Lifesaving Association organizes professional surveillance in as many places as possible on the Dutch coast, near inland waterways and water-rich events. At these locations, lifeguards are present to provide first aid, help search for missing people and carry out rescue operations.

#### **4. The National Rescue Fleet**

Because the Netherlands is such a water-rich country and is situated largely below sea level, the Netherlands has a National Rescue Fleet. After the great flood disaster in 1953, the government decided to set it up.

The Lifesaving Association Netherlands, together with the safety regions, keeps the National Rescue Fleet ready 24/7, as a "first response" for deployment in the event of major water calamities and floods in the Netherlands. In cooperation with the Fire brigades, it is able to evacuate people and animals throughout the Netherlands (within one hour of the alarm). To this end, well-trained volunteers are attached to 88 units (vessels).









#### 5. Lifesaving sport

A number of members of rescue brigades practice lifesaving as a sport. It is a fun way to stay fit and motivated in a competitive way. Our ambition is to move up in the Top 10 ranking worldwide. So far, we are doing well, as evidenced by the two silver medals, one bronze medal and three fourth places that the National Team Lifesaving Seniors (NTLS) achieved at the European Lifesaving Championship 2019 in Riccione, Italy, and the tenth place overall in 2018 at the World Cup for country teams. That also says something about a vision of quality and our aim to get the best out of our people and materials.





#### **6. Service Center**

The Service Center maintains the material (engines, boats) of a large number of Local committees, including all the material of the National Rescue Fleet. Also, the Service Center develops and builds new vessels. Rescue brigades can purchase material like vessels, watercraft and trailers, but also ask for technical advice to keep rescue brigades ready at all times.

#### **International cooperation:**

The Lifesaving Association is an active member of the umbrella organizations ILS (International Life Saving) and ILSE (International Life Saving Europe).

The Lifesaving Association is interested in international cooperation. This may concern, for example, the exchange of knowledge and expertise about the National Rescue Fleet, the way in which we work with volunteers or our training and education scheme. We are open for joint projects, such as Erasmus+ projects in Europe, or other proposals.

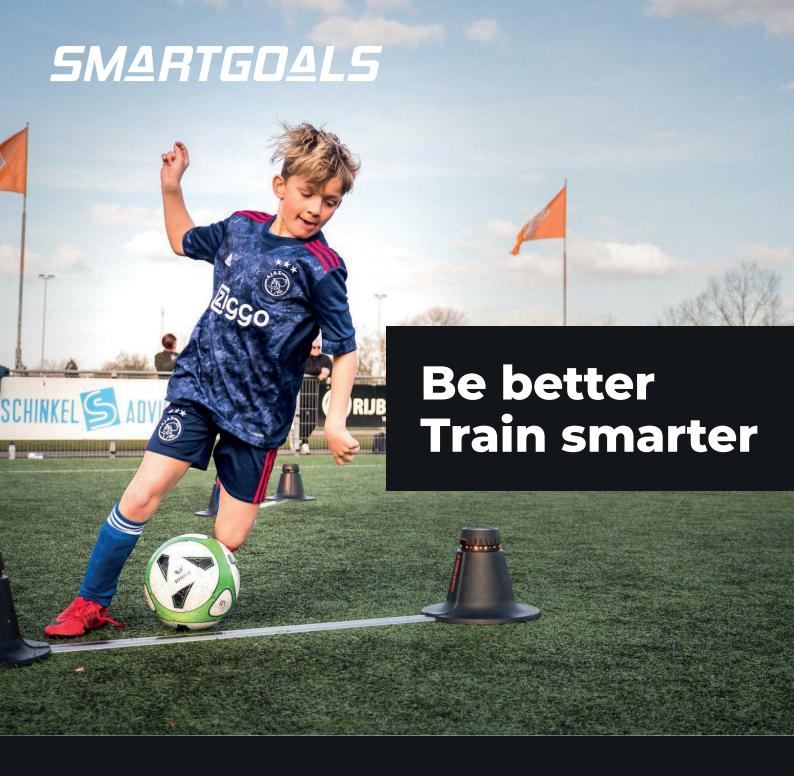
For more information about possibilities to cooperate with or contribute to the Dutch Lifesaving Association, please contact:

#### **Contact details:**

The Royal Dutch Lifesaving Association (KNBRD) Peter Barendse Dokweg 149 1976 CA IJmuiden The Netherlands

+31 (0)255-545858 Info@reddingsbrigade.nl www.reddingsbrigade.nl





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#### 03 SkillGames

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#### Nothing displays our motto "For life. For work." better than sports.

#### THE SD WORX CYCLING TEAM



HR and payroll provider SD Worx secured the future of the Ladies Cycling Team for the period 2021 to 2024; they signed a four-year contract with the world's best women's cycling team. From 2021, this team will continue under the name SD Worx Cycling Team.

"Nothing displays our motto
'For life. For work' better than sports.
Top sport is serious business.
In addition, countless amateur
athletes enjoy recreational activities
on a daily basis, and even more
people simply cycle to work every day.
For us, this is the perfect time
to help the best women's cycling
team in the world grow".

Mark Bloem, General Manager SD Worx Netherlands.

Just like SD Worx, this team loves to win. It will do everything in its power to maintain its leading position. Teamwork combined with strong individual performance is essential. But what is it that makes women's cycling so interesting and why does the sport deserve our attention?

#### A conscious choice for women's cycling

SD Worx consciously opted for women's cycling. Kobe Verdonck, CEO of SD Worx: "We are very proud of becoming the main sponsor of the world's number one women's cycling team. This partnership is a well-considered choice: women's cycling receives more attention every day. Besides, cycling is an extremely accessible and green sport, which is close to the people and internationally loved by a very broad public. The team consists of top sportswomen of different nationalities. The level is very high. We are convinced that this sponsorship will further strengthen our

brand awareness among our two target groups: employers and employees, internationally".

#### An independent women's team at the highest level

"The fact that we managed to capture such a good main sponsor for four years proves that we have been on the right track for the last couple of years." states the satisfied General Team Manager Erwin Janssen. "We believe it is important to maintain an independent women's team at the highest level. There are only a few top teams that are not connected to



a male WorldTour formation and we are one of them. So our full attention lies with the women's team. With this focus, we think we have an advantage over other teams. The investment of a successful organisation such as SD Worx also proves that women's cycling has gained enormous popularity in recent years".

Sports director Danny Stam indicates that the team's ambition will remain unchanged in the coming years: to maintain our number one position in the world. "I am thankful that our current sponsors Boels Rental and Dolmans Landscaping Group had the class to indicate at an early stage that their intention was to stop sponsoring. That gave us the opportunity to find this new sponsor. SD Worx's enthusiasm is unparalleled and has a tremendous motivating effect on everyone in the team. It is a great advantage that we already know now that our future is guaranteed up to and including 2024".



#### **Conquering a man's world**

Women have been involved in competitive cycling for 50 years. Yet there has been less recognition for women's cycling compared to men's. The tide seems to be turning slowly but surely, both in terms of media attention and the number of important women's races that are being organized each year. The number of sponsors is also increasing. Mark Bloem: "I dare say that everyone loves sports. Whether you practice sport yourself or you prefer to watch it, for many people it's all about having fun and feeling excitement together. Yet women's tournaments are still undervalued in many sports. Some progress has been made in recent years, but when we look at equality there is still a huge gap between female and male athletes. I think it is an important task for the media to highlight women's sports such as cycling".



#### **Common values and winner's mentality**

For SD Worx, sponsoring the largest women's cycling team in the world was an obvious choice. "I am very proud that we will be the main sponsor from 2021 onwards and will thus make the most of the synergies that SD Worx and the increasingly popular women's cycling are generating. We are not only sending out a clear message as a company that values diversity. I also see great similarities between the ambitions of the team and those of our company: always try to be the best in what you do and give young talent every opportunity to grow." says Mark Bloem.

#### A team of winners

This team is not just any women's cycling team. It is, with its Olympic and world champions, the team that has dominated the UCI ranking of women's teams since the end of 2015. The team's riders are a fixture at the global top. It's important to invest in young talent so that they can secure their title as best women's team.

The new sponsorship contract runs until the end of 2024. To guarantee a seamless transition with the current sponsors Boels and Dolmans, SD Worx is already following the team closely this season. In 2020, the SD Worx logo has already been proudly displayed on their outfits. From January 2021 the team will be renamed the 'SD Worx Cycling Team' and will participate in all the top races.





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# Holland Sports & Industry ● ●

#### **OPPORTUNITIES IN THE GREATEST**

#### **SPORTS COUNTRY IN THE WORLD:**

#### THE UNITED STATES

For the Netherlands, the United States is the most important trading partner outside Europe. The Netherlands is one of the largest investors in the US and the US is the single largest investor in the Netherlands. The US is a sports nation by nature, with a sports industry estimated to value over USD 500 billion. Florida's sports industry alone has grown to an estimated USD 60 billion per year industry. The US is a frontrunner when it comes to the use of data innovations in sport, and the economic footprint of professional sports, amateur sports, recreation, and collegiate athletics is enormous. Also, mega sports events in the near future, demographic developments, and the growth of certain sports in the US, such as soccer and e-sports, make the US attractive for the Dutch sports sector.



The US is well-known for American Football, Basketball, Baseball, and NASCAR. However, in recent years, the US has also seen large investments in soccer. In Dec 2019, Bloomberg presented soccer as "the Sport of the Future in the USA". The US is organizing the 2026 World Cup together with Canada and Mexico. At the same time, investments in training facilities

for professional athletes, stadiums, innovation, sustainability, and community development are not limited to mega-events. Investments also go hand in hand with, for example, the expansion of the Major League Soccer (MLS). In the southeast of the US, four new MLS teams (Inter Miami CF, Nashville SC, Austin FC and Charlotte FC) have been established. Demographic trends have contributed to the growth of soccer on all levels (and soccer is currently already the most popular sport for 18-34 year olds and the most-practiced sport by kids). Beside the professional leagues and large sporting events, amateur sports and college sports represent a large and ever-growing industry.

With its application for a multiannual public-private partnership in the form of the "Partners for International Business" (PIB) program at the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO), OSF capitalizes on developments and opportunities in the US sports sector, focusing on the states of Florida, Texas, and Georgia. The "Sports, Innovation, and Vitality" PIB started in November with a cluster of 20 Dutch companies and organizations that are internationally active in the sports industry. The cluster has expertise, products, and services to offer in the area of sports, innovation, and vitality. Under this PIB program, the cluster and the Dutch government



#### **Ruth Emmerink, Consul General in Miami:**

"The Netherlands is known for its achievements in sports. That's a plus in the US. However, what is generally not known, even in the American sports sector, is what the knowledge, innovation, products and services are that drive those achievements. And that innovativecompanies and top-notch sports organizations in the Netherlands can potentially also add value in the US. Or that the Dutch policy promoting access to sports for each child, contributes to happiness and vitality, and that it unlocks talent. Also the way in which the government, sports organizations, the private sector, and knowledge institutions work together in the Netherlands, is quite unique. The

Dutch sports sector now has an opportunity to share this broader story internationally. And what better place to start than the US? There is no other country in the world that is as famous for sports and sports business.

I am proud of the successes that Dutch companies and individuals already have in the States. The Dutch sports sector can count on us to help them tell the Netherlands' sports story. The sector can also count on us and our network to help identify business opportunities, in areas where Dutch propositions align with the demand in the American sports sector. Sport connects. By connecting the broader Netherlands' sports sector to the US sports sector, we contribute to sustainable trade, innovation, exchanging expertise, and other forms of collaboration with impact.

Do you want to know more? Contact me via email at ruth.emmerink@minbuza.nl or on LinkedIn!"



are developing activities to strongly position the Netherlands' sports sector in the US. Collaboration will be advanced in the areas of trade promotion, in-depth market research, the identification of business leads, the organization of events, participation in trade fairs, missions, clinics, and promotion activities, under the broader overarching goal of the Netherlands: Solving Global Challenges Together.

Via this PIB, the cluster would like to add value to promising developments around sports, innovation, and vitality in the US, with a specific regional focus on the states in the southeast. In this effort, the Dutch sports sector is supported by the Consulate General of the Netherlands in Miami. The thematic focus is on investments in stadiums, training facilities for professional athletes and community sports facilities; entertainment and esports, the use of data in



talent development, the exchange of expertise, and consultancy.

sports and other sport innovations; youth and | This connects well to the composition of the cluster, with OSF as its coordinator, consisting of:











































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# THE NEW PUBLIC PRIVATE SPORTS PLATFORM: SPORTSNL

#### **Changing the Game together!**

With this slogan, sports organizations, the business community, social-cultural organizations and the government will jointly collaborate in the international sports realm. Dutch business sectors have an international strategy, but the international interests surrounding sport were not yet organized as such. Through regular coordination with various private and public organizations, SportsNL wants to ensure that the various international initiatives can reinforce each other. Major sports events such as the Olympic Games in Paris and the World Cup in Qatar may be interesting from a sports point of view and with regard to diplomatic relations, these events also offer an opportunity for Dutch companies that provide technologies or services to build the Olympic Villages or training facilities.



SportsNL's goal is to join forces. SportsNL offers a platform for joint efforts and a joint image towards other countries. Under the leadership of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, SportsNL has been developed together with the following public and private partners: NOC-NSF, KNVB, the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate, the Johan Cruijff Arena, Signify, the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO), Association of Sports and Municipalities (Vereniging Sport en Gemeenten), SportsInnovator, Knowledge Center for Sports and Exercise (Kenniscentrum sport en bewegen), VNO-NCW and MKB NL. These parties also form a steering committee in which it is discussed how and where to join forces. SportsNL has been developed to make the best possible use of the international potential in the field of sports business, sports innovation, sports diplomacy and social sports programs by connecting existing resources and efforts better. The platform focuses on promoting and improving international programs and cooperation by harnessing the power of collectivity and sport.

### The parties mentioned jointly formulated the following vision, mission and strategy.

#### Vision

In 2030, the Netherlands will be seen worldwide as the partner for an inclusive, sustainable and innovative sports experience. This will be expressed and translated into social sports programs, sustainable and innovative sports products and infrastructure.

#### **Mission**

Making the most of the power of sport for international trade, diplomacy, innovation / knowledge exchange and social programs.

#### **Strategy**

In order to realize the above mentioned vision and mission, the Sports platform must reach and connect a wide network of businesses, government institutions, sports and social organizations and knowledge institutions. This connection is found by jointly focusing on widely shared priorities and by programming multi-year public-private programs. programming looks at a wide range of activities, both incoming (to the Netherlands) and outgoing (outside of the Netherlands).

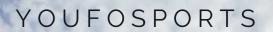


Collaboration on an international level is certainly not new, for example, various international programs concerning the theme of sport have been organized in recent years, for example to Brazil, India, Qatar and China. However, there seems to be more profit to be made by developing a strategy and making joint efforts for countries in which cooperation provides much added value. For example, the international network of the public and private partners involved offers a great deal of opportunity to help Dutch sports organizations internationally, but also to build relationships and identify opportunities for the Dutch business community and knowledge institutions. In addition, sport offers the opportunity to work on various social themes such as health and inclusivity. Through a multiyear approach and cooperation, SportsNL wants to ensure that international cooperation around sport is better organized, creating more sustainable cooperation and relationships with an eye for mutual international interests.

The various collective activities of the network will be published on the website. This offers opportunity for various networking partners to join existing initiatives or to share new initiatives with the network. Some examples of initiatives that will be jointly deployed in the coming period are the Paris Olympics, the Los Angeles Olympics, the Youth Olympics in Senegal and the World Cup in Qatar.

For more information, please visit: www.sports-nl.com.









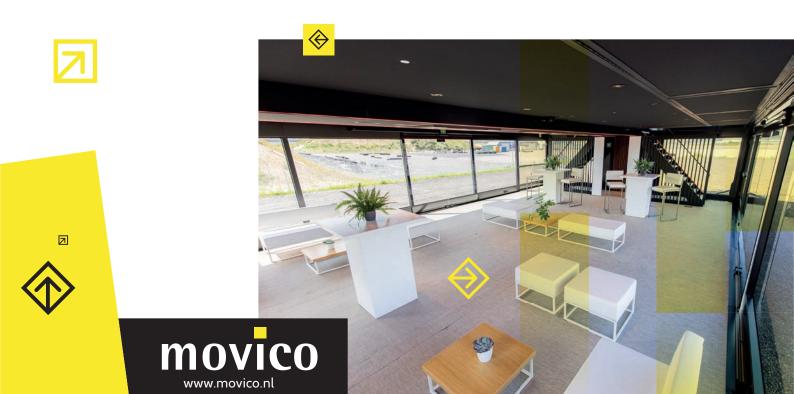


#### WITH OUR EXTENSIVE FLEET OF MOBILE EVENT STRUCTURES WE OFFER YOU THE POSSIBILITY TO REACH, CONNECT, ENGAGE AND ACTIVATE YOUR TARGET AUDIENCE.

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#### **TEAM KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS:**

## DIVERSITY IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS

Dutch sports teams have shown outstanding performances the past years on European level.

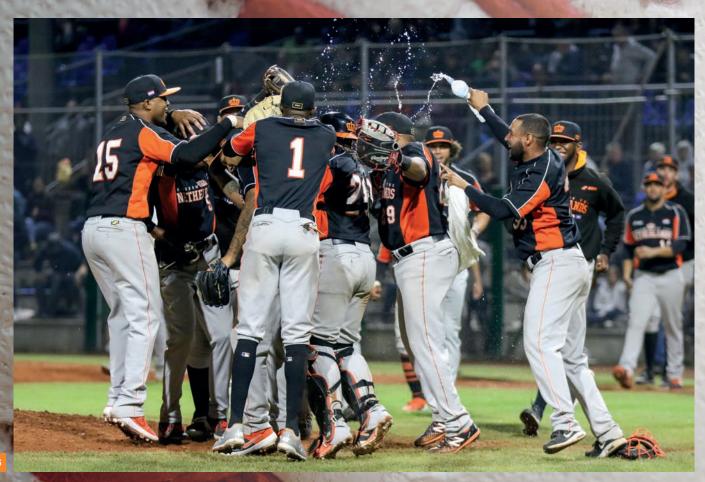
Remarkably enough, there is one Orange team that has earned more noteworthy achievements than most:

the baseball players of Team Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The name of the team was chosen with care. While many national selections carry the name Netherlands National Team or Dutch National Team, it was decided that these names do not capture the essence for the baseball

(and softball) team. The large input from the Caribbean part of our Kingdom, through players from Aruba, Curação and Sint-Maarten, deserves to be included in the name.

The national team has been part of the best of European baseball since the '50s, with stars carrying Dutch names like Urbanus and Beidschat. The following years, the Caribbean influences kept increasing. Legendary baseball





players such as Hamilton Richardson and Jacky Jacoba battled side by side with players like Charles Urbanus and Bill Groot.

#### **World champion**

Nowadays, the Kingdom team has earned 23 European titles. Their biggest rival in Europe, Italy, follows at an appropriate distance with only 10 European Championships. On a global scale the achievements have been increasing steadily.

The official breakthrough came at the 2000 Olympics. With a national team consisting of the best players from the Hoofdklasse, for the first time in collaboration with professional players from The Netherlands, Aruba, and Curaçao, the team that was thought of as unbeatable, Cuba, baseball superpower of their time, was beaten. Hensley Meulens, the first Curaçao native to ever reach the Major League Baseball, hit the game winning double, while Dutch professional player Rikkert Faneyte closed the game out as a pitcher.

The win over Cuba, who had never lost an Olympic game before, was the start of a global push on baseball for the Kingdom team. They kept rising in the global ranking and at the

World Championships of 2005 and 2007 the team made the semifinals. It became clear a great generation of baseball players had risen. The team was a perfect melting pot of cultures from different parts of the Kingdom.

The cherry on top came in 2011. In Panama Team Kingdom of the Netherlands had to take on the absolute top teams of the world again, at the World Championship. During the group stage, the Orange team surprisingly beat fan favourites Japan and the United States. The team of American manager Brian Farley got into a flow. During the second round they beat South Korea, Venezuela, Australia and even Cuba. That same team Cuba – just like team Kingdom – reached the finals.





The Cubans were favourited by many and early in the game, they took a 1-0 advantage. The Kingdom team showed resilience and immediately tied it and even made it 2-1. On the mound was Rob Cordemans, the best Dutch pitcher of all time. Together with his relievers Juan Carlos Sulbaran and David Bergman he kept the strong Cuban offense scoreless for the rest of the game. The last play was a flyout to the young third baseman Jonathan Schoop and the improbable, the inconceivable had happened: Team Kingdom of the Netherlands became World Champions.

A unique achievement, which was later mentioned by Prime Minister Mark Rutte during a speech for the UN as the paragon of the power of cooperation within the Kingdom: "As Kingdom of the Netherlands with parts in Northwest Europe and the Caribbean, we understand the importance of teamwork. The best example of this cooperation is our baseball team, who won the World Championship in 2011."

#### **Superstars**

Not much later, the fact that the players who became World Champions are part of a unique generation, became even more apparent. Players such as Didi Gregorius, who was born in Amsterdam and grew up in Curação, Jonathan Schoop (Curação) and Xander Bogaerts (Aruba) who were all part of Team Kingdom of the Netherlands when they beat Cuba, made their debut in the Major League Baseball shortly after. Meanwhile Kenley Jansen, Andrelton Simmons, Chadwick Tromp, Ozzie Albies, Sherten Apostel and Carter Kieboom have joined the group of players from the Kingdom in the Major League and are now part of the highest paid athletes from the Kingdom. In Japan Rick van den Hurk and Wladimir Balentien currently play on the highest level. Balentien, a great hitter, broke a decade old record of legendary Sadaharu Oh: most home runs hit in a single season.



With these players, complimented by players of the Dutch Hoofdklasse, the Kingdom team made it to the semi finals of the World Baseball Classic – the tournament organised by the MLB once every four years, in which Major League players are allowed to participate – in 2013 and in 2017. In countries such as Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, and the United States Team Kingdom of the Netherlands plays in packed stadiums with roaring fans. The team is popular and beloved around the globe.

#### **Olympic ambition**

The next peak to be climbed and conquered is Mount Olympus. Team Kingdom of the Netherlands is still in the running for participation in the Olympics in Tokyo and is, if qualified, a strong competitor for a medal.

Could you use exposure in world economies like the US, Japan and South Korea and do you want to support this successful team with reaching their Olympic ambitions?

Contact commercial manager Berry van Driel at berry.van.driel@knbsb.nl.





#### FEYENOORD ROTTERDAM, HERE TO EMPOWER



The Feyenoord Academy is known worldwide as one of the best football development systems, having produced many talented players. Feyenoord International offers programs for ambitious players and coaches to experience youth football at the highest level. We do this by sharing and applying the methodology used within the Feyenoord Academy. The new Feyenoord Academy facilities were officially opened 2019. in August This new accommodation contributes to the professional training environment that Feyenoord wants to offer its youth players.

Feyenoord International stands for a high-quality learning experience for participants in all our international programs. With these programs we aim to provide both coaches and youth players with unique opportunities. Feyenoord offers them the opportunity to showcase their talent, to learn more about the beautiful game of football and to communicate with both their peers and our qualified International Development Coaches.

The main goal is to contribute to the development of global football. We do this by making our knowledge and experience available to our partners. Our international programs are designed to provide academy staff with the right tools to boost their personal development as well as the development of the academy curriculum and the development of their players.

Feyenoord is structurally active on five continents. In addition, Feyenoord Camps are organized annually in many different countries while we welcome teams, coaches as well as other delegations at our academy in Rotterdam.



What Feyenoord can offer:

- Comprehensive meaningful Strategic and Educational Partnerships;
- Feyenoord Football School and Feyenoord International Academy agreements;
- Fully catered European football experience for youth teams;
- Academy visits and educational programs for coaches;
- Official Feyenoord licensed Camps on location;
- Clinics and workshops on location;
- Internship opportunities for talented players and coaches;
- · Curriculum and coaching consultancy;
- Online assistance and coaching development.



# RICK VAN DEN HURK: BIG IN JAPAN

Rick van den Hurk is one of the greatest living Dutch athletes.

He was born on 22 May 1985 in Eindhoven and played for PSV Honkbal, Oosterhout Twins and Bantopa Amsterdam. At the age of sixteen, he left for the United States, where he attended the Marlins' Playball Baseball Academy in Fort Lauderdale; there he also obtained his first professional contract. In 2007, Rick made his debut in Major League Baseball (MLB) and played for the Florida Marlins, Baltimore Orioles and Pittsburgh Pirates. In 2013, Van den Hurk moved to the other side of the world, where he played for the Samsung Lions in South Korea, helping them to two championship triumphs. After a little over a year, he continued his career with the SoftBank Hawks in Japan, winning four national championships with them.

He also achieved success in his international career, reaching the semi-finals of the World Baseball Classics (WBC), the world's largest baseball tournament for national teams.

In this interview, Rick van den Hurk speaks more about his career and explains how baseball differs internationally.

### What are the biggest differences between baseball in the Netherlands, the USA and Japan?

In the Netherlands, baseball is a relatively small-scale sport, with only 9,000 partcipants and 160 clubs. Public interest in baseball is also very low in the Netherlands; usually only a few dozen people attend games. Nevertheless, several Dutchmen play in major leagues. Because of this, the Netherlands are able to compete with Europe's and even the world's best teams!

The United States and Japan, on the other hand, have major professional competitions. They play 6 days a week, usually from Tuesday to Sunday, and the stadia are filled with close to 30,000 fans at every match! The Japanese league (NPB) has 143 games, whereas in the US (MLB) they play 162 games. The experience, the fans, the professionalism and the budgets are all very much greater than in the Netherlands.

#### Can you give an indication of what the budgets and salaries are like at clubs?

In the Netherlands, baseball is mainly a sport for amateurs, but in the United States and Japan there's a lot of money around in their leagues. That's especially true in the US. MLB budgets are high, and top clubs like the LA Dodgers and the New York Yankees have a budget for players up to \$200 million. In Japan, club budgets are around \$70 to \$80 million USD.

The difference in salary between the two countries is also quite large. The average salary at the SoftBank Hawks in 2019 was around \$1.52 million USD per player, which was the highest average in the NPB. The top salaries in Japan are between \$6 and \$8 million USD per year.

In the MLB, the average salary was \$4.43 million USD in 2020, which is significantly higher than in Japan. The best-paid player in the MLB is Mike Trout, with \$426.5 million USD for a 12-year contract, which works out as \$35.54 million USD per year.







#### What is the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on baseball in Japan?

Just like anywhere else in the world, the impact of COVID-19 has been huge in Japan. The competition started later than planned and was subsequently halted for some time.

In Japan, the regular season restarted in mid June. Teams will be playing until the end of October, with 120 games taking place instead of the 143 played during a 'normal' season. The number of spectators allowed in a stadium was also reduced to 1,000. In the course of the season, there were different phases (1,000, 5,000 and 10,000), bringing the number of spectators slowly back up to 20,000 per game.

In the MLB, the impact on baseball has also been significant with the number of games being reduced from 162 to 60.

#### What is your expectation with regard to the Olympics in Japan next year?

The Olympic Games in 2021 are a spectacular event in an awesome country. Japan has beautiful cities, great food and tropical warm summers.

Over the last few years, the influence of this enormous event has been felt throughout the country: cities preparing themselves by renovating airports and train stations, for example. There's even a brand-new Tokyo cab for 2020. You can also buy merchandise everywhere. The Games are extremely important for the Japanese. They want to give their guests a really ceremonious welcome.

#### What are your sports goals and ambitions for this season?

The goal for 2020 is to put in a strong finish to the competition and win another championship. It would be my fifth championship in Japan, adding to the wins in 2015, 2017, 2018 & 2019.

In addition, I'm committed to developing youth talent, help them along the path to a professional career. I also want to set up my own platform to guide talented youngsters and their parents. I've gained a lot of experience in the course of my career and I would like to pass that on to the new generation.

#### Ambassador for sport and exercise

I'd also like to play a role as an ambassador for sport and exercise. At a certain stage in their career, an athlete has a lot to contribute, for example by offering clinics. It's important to have a figure in each sport who promotes involvement, learning and exploration.

A nice connection is also the National Sports Agreement 'Sport Unites the Netherlands'. The Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports is the initiator of the agreement. Sport itself (represented by NOC\*NSF, the Netherlands Olympic Committee), the municipalities and the government are core partners in the agreement. For one of the five pillars 'top sport that inspires', I see an opportunity to be able to contribute as a professional athlete.



## **MAKING PLANS**

## IN A DAILY CHANGING

## REALITY

In the Netherlands people are anxious to know where they stand. They are used to making plans.

To be able to grow and anticipate on what's coming next. We want to be able to work, step by step, towards that one goal that we have in mind. Recognizable? We do see this at Papendal. In both elite sports and business we strive for goals with our athletes and our business partners.

Unfortunately the COVID-19 outbreak has disrupted everyone's plans. It even postponed the Olympic Games in Tokyo and closed Papendal for 6 weeks. Who would have ever thought this would happen as we were toasting in January on a promising sports year. A year in which Hotel Papendal was also about to have it's best year ever.



An enormous complex that normally buzzes with lots of energy came to a stop. Even normal life as we know it was put on hold. In the meantime we asked more than 100% of our care workers. A period of reflection, change and making new plans followed. In a world

that changes daily and in which nothing can really be planned. In sports we like challenges. And COVID-19 is guite a challenge. Even now, knowing the second wave has become reality. It is once again clear that the virus is still among us and is not planning to leave anytime soon. For Hotel Papendal this means adjusting plans and formulating new goals. Business events of 1000 or 2000 people are a thing of the past. Smaller groups and the transition to hybrid meetings seems to be the new reality. At least for now. Fortunately, we have more than enough space to safely organize such meetings. Not only at the hotel, with our diverse meeting rooms, but also outside at our large event ground in the midst of nature. During the summer we focused more on leisure guests than ever before. An approach that was successful. The hotel had that vibrant feeling and energy back. Let's make no mistake that Hotel Papendal, like many others, is facing challenging times because of this crisis. Yet we do not give up, but we look at our possibilities. We look for opportunities and we respond to them. As the famous quote from Rocky goes:

"It ain't about how hard you hit.

It's about how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward."

Setbacks are a part of top-level sport. Our aim is to come back even better and more successful.





We are living in a reality that has almost become normal. For elite sports, training is still allowed for the time being. At Papendal we created a corona-proof environment including keeping a distance, disinfection, facemasks and more. It is almost getting normal because it's the situation for months now, but it will never really be normal. We call it the new temporary. In the summer and late summer even some (international) competitions have been held. Complete with guarantines, tests and bubbles. Situations like these lead up to new questions. How can we continue to guarantee a safe training environment at Papendal, even if the number of infections in the Netherlands continues to rise? How do we deal with top athletes who return from countries with a high infection rate? How do we prepare for any new measures taken by the government? How can our top athletes continue to optimally prepare for the Olympic Games? Because the Olympic Games will be held in 2021, the IOC continues to emphasize. This means making choices, setting priorities, implementing our own measures and maintaining close contact with NOC\*NSF (the National Olympic Committee), sports federations, the medical staff, the Municipality of Arnhem and our safety region. Every day. Fortunately, we are resilient, flexible and creative in sports. Characteristics that we badly need every day.

And so we keep making plans, we look ahead. Every day. That characterizes the real Dutch and top athletes. The road to our goal will be more winding than ever in the near future. But there are several ways to achieve goals. Together. We take it step by step. With colleagues, top athletes, coaches, unions and numerous corporations and partners. Because we are in it together and we will overcome this together!

Jochem Schellens, CEO Hotel and Olympic Training Centre Papendal





#### Red Bull gives speedskaters wings

## INNOVATIONS ON THE ICE RING

Unique video analysis methods, a dynamic wind tunnel for the very best in aerodynamics and a speed record: for the Jumbo-Visma speedskating team, Red Bull's worth as an innovation partner is invaluable. It's a contract which is set to go on for three more years.

"How can we improve your performance?" This is exactly what Kjeld Nuis was asked by Red Bull in 2013. It's a simple question, but the answer is far more complex. After two years of partnership with Red Bull already, the relationship took a big step forward. In a sport like speed skating - a sport dominated by the Dutch for over 130 years - a lot of work has already been done on almost everything imaginable. However, Red Bull's fresh attitude and innovative approach soon proved to be worth its weight in gold to Nuis' former coach Jac Orie, in what is now known as Teasm Jumbo-Visma. Orie, a highly successful coach and physiologist, wanted to have the ability to analyse Nuis' movements from multiple angles. "We used video analysis, but at the time we were limited to one or two angles. Red Bull provides us with abilities which would normally be out of reach for commercial teams like us", said Orie in 2013. Red Bull's setup consisted of no less then 60 cameras, placed in a semi-circle on the ice. Nuis' movements could now be meticulously analysed from any angle. Additionally, a cablecam was installed, providing footage from a bird's eye perspective. Orie and his staff worked on multiple sessions, analysing every detail. Many insights were gained, such as the angles Nuis' body made and how they changed as fatigue kicked in. "We would not have been able to see this before. These details can make the difference at the top level of sport, even the difference to win that medal", commented Orie after seeing the footage.





#### **World record**

A partnership based on innovation was born. Red Bull provides Nuis and Orie with the technical tools needed for their analysis, allowing them to pinpoint and fine-tune every single detail, and make a fast man even faster. In top-class sport, as Orie mentioned before, it's all about the details. After missing the 2014 Olympic Games, Nuis has won one after another major competition. Gold in the World Championships of 2017 and 2019, and two gold medals in the 2018 Olympic Games. A month later, Nuis would follow that up with a mean feat. "Red Bull asked me what my dream was which I still wanted to achieve. Record attempts are so cool and up until that day it was something I had never attempted."

He set off to become the fastest man ever recorded on ice. Red Bull teamed up with the Eindhoven University of Technology to develop an advanced wind screen for the attempt, arranged an airport as the record location and had a special set of blades developed for Nuis' skates. Former professional skater, Erben Wennemars, was brought on board, further expanding the support team's core. On the 28th of March, in the Swedish part of Lapland, the time had come for a ground-breaking attempt. 1500 metres of speckless natural ice was a sight to behold as Mikaela Ahlin-Kottulinsky, a Swedish race driver, drove the car with the windscreen across the ice plain. Nuis followed inches behind, racing to a neck-breaking speed of 93 kilometres per hour, shattering his



previous personal best by over 30 kilometres. "Wow! I just flew across that ice", he shouted after the attempt.

#### **Innovation partner**

Red Bull and Jac Orie found each other in the pursuit to achieve the impossible. Since 2019, Red Bull is Jumbo-Visma's official innovation partner. By innovating, Orie's pupils, already top-class athletes as it is, will be able to improve their performance even further. Red Bull brings along knowledge gained in years of collaboration with over 800 athletes and teams from all over the world, of which the team and its athletes will benefit. CFO Ton van Veen of Jumbo and chairman of the supervisory board of Jumbo-Visma states his joy with the signing of this partnership: "Jac and the team will be



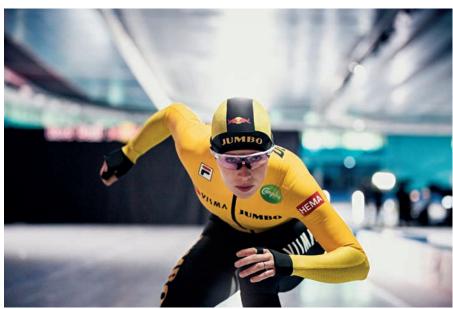


able to access data, knowledge and techniques utilized by Red Bull in several sports. We can apply innovative training techniques in the team, allowing us to hopefully step up our game even further. For the team, this is a tremendous impulse."

#### **Air fans**

In exhilaration, Orie rubbed his hands thinking of the projects they would be able to undertake with Red Bull. In 2019 this resulted in Project Vortex. This project was created to copy the conditions of Salt Lake City and Calgary, bringing them to the Thialf stadium. Located high above sea levels, the resulting lower air pressure creates less wind resistance and as a result brings higher speeds. European skaters are not used to these kind of speeds and their technique needs to be adjusted to ride at these speeds. As time was short to train in Salt Lake City and Calgary, yet the 2020 World Championships distances was to take place in Salt Lake City, Red Bull decided to place huge fans in Thialf. The resulting tailwind allowed the skaters to reach speeds similar to those in Salt Lake City, offering them the chance to fine-tune their technique in their homestead of Heerenveen. Orie: "A fantastic learning process, as we could simulate the exact problems we'd come across in Salt Lake City. Now, we can prepare for those." Team Jumbo-Visma would win multiple medals at the 2020 World Championships in Salt Lake City, among them Nuis' golden medal in the 1500 meter race.





#### **Prolongation**

By mid-2020 it became clear that this partnership was set to get even better when Red Bull and Jumbo-Visma extended their contract by three years, ending in April 2023. Orie explained: "Red Bull is an excellent match to our team. We both tend to think outside of the box; we don't limit ourselves and always look for new ways and opportunities. That attitude leads to interesting finds, innovation and progress. Plus, it does not just remain an idea, but leads to actual action and improvement." Together with Red Bull. the team will pursue even faster times. "We've already talked about two new projects. One is focused on aerodynamics whilst the other will encompass utilizing MRI to visualize a training's impact on the body of an athlete."

#### Aero

One of those plans, Project Aero, was completed in October of this year. A big black tent was placed over the Thialf's famous ice ring, forming a dynamic wind tunnel for aerodynamic analysis. It allowed the team to analyse not only a static posture, but a full skate movement. As athletes skated around the ice ring, it was filled with smoke enabling specialist cameras and lasers to visualize airflow around them. This footage and data provided Orie and his team with the tools they needed to improve movements and postures of skaters during every move on the ice. "We were looking to do this for years", said Orie.







"Red Bull enabled us to execute this plan. We gathered a lot of data. It has provided insights, positions yielded slightly different results than expected. It's quite interesting. This innovation will provide progress. We will do whatever it takes to win; we want to win as many medals as we can. Innovations like these enable us to do just that. You want to be smarter than your competitors, especially when the competition is so fierce like in our sport."

Three-time all round World Champion Patrick Roest enjoyed using this advanced technology.

"We can now see what is working best for aerodynamics. It's great to see what our partnership with Red Bull enables us to do. It continues to gather a lot of knowledge", he said. Red Bull has proved to be an invaluable partner in a top-class sport like speedskating. With the expertise, knowledge and means it brings to the table, Red Bull continues to strive for innovation, even after being involved in the sport for over twenty years. And with the commitment to continue its involvement to at least April 2023, there's still more to come.





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about ambitions, the will to win and the cooperation with Texaco Lubricants

## SHARON VAN ROUWENDAAL



Ever since Sharon was young, she always wanted to be the best.

Sharon has an older brother and sister, and they were already "swimming".

Sharon took swimming lessons as a 5-year-old and asked her mother after each lesson if she had improved her time.

It should be clear: if she does something, she will go for it!

Only thirteen years old, Sharon decided to leave the family home and focus entirely on swimming. As of 2013, Sharon trained in the team of Philippe Lucas, the French coach who has the reputation of a drill sergeant. In August of this year, Sharon decided she wanted to do it differently. Sharon: "Due to the corona crisis, there were less training sessions and no matches. I concluded that I wanted to continue with a different trainer, even though the years

with Philippe have brought me a lot. I cannot remain a top athlete forever, but the plan is now to continue at this level for another four years. The choice to train with another coach is a good one. I currently live and train in Germany (Magdeburg), in the team of Bernd Berkhahn. I had already seen Bernd on an altitude internship and his approach really appealed to me. With Bernd I learn new techniques and there is a professional coaching team".

Since this year, Sharon has become an ambassador for Texaco Lubricants. Sharon: "In addition to swimming, I enjoy being involved in sponsorships. I work with with several brands, but I think it is very important that a brand matches who I am. Therefore, I really like the cooperation with Texaco Lubricants. Sports is like a motorcycle: it not only has to perform optimally, but also for a long time, just like I have to do during my trainings and of course competitions. A well-oiled machine is created together with sponsor Texaco".

Sharon: "I have been exercising a lot since I was really young. It was nice to ask my five-year older brother if he wanted to run or swim with me. No matter what: I just wanted to win". However, the focus was mainly on swimming. Wherever the competitions were, her mother came along. Her father stimulated her in a different way; he promised her a present when she improved her time. He had to buy a lot of presents, then you'll know enough...

Now, we are writing this story 21 years after her first swimming lessons. Sharon has an incredibly long list of victories to her name. Sharon is best known for the 2016 Olympics in Rio, where she won the gold medal in the 10km open water swimming. Sharon: "Winning the gold medal on the Olympics in Rio was the best victory of my career. This was mainly because preparations were not so easy due to a shoulder injury. But, when we swam to the pre-start (the start was extended due to the high sea level), I felt that it was about to happen". And so it did. Sharon distinguished herself as the first and only female long distance swimmer in the Netherlands to ever win Olympic gold.

Furthermore, Sharon is, above all, a versatile swimmer with numerous medals in both open water and pool competitions. Sharon started her swimming career in 2008, winning four medals at the European Junior Championships in Belgrade, including a gold medal in the



1500m freestyle. She subsequently broke through internationally (at senior level) at the 2010 European Championships in Eindhoven. She won silver twice; both in the 100m and the 200m backstroke. This was followed by a succession of international victories, including her first World Championship on the long track; in Shanghai (2011) Sharon won the bronze medal in the 200m backstroke.

In 2016, Sharon won the gold medal at the Olympic Games in Rio, the crowning glory of all her hard work.

In 2018, Sharon won another four medals at the European Championships (gold in the 5 km, gold in the 10 km, gold in the Nations competition over 5 km and silver in the 25 km). That year, Sharon received the title *'Female Open Water Swimmer of the Year'* by SwimSwam Magazine. In short, Sharon's drive to win is unprecedented. The hunger to win has not been satisfied. During the 2021 Olympic Games in Tokyo, Sharon aims to become the first swimmer to extend her Olympic open water title. Sharon: *"I do*"

everything I can to stay fit. For example, during the corona crisis, when training in a swimming pool or open water was not possible, I started training twice a day with a cord around my waist in my inflatable pool in the garden. I had to make the most of it. The videos of my practices have been shared worldwide. In preparation for the Olympics next year, I now train 11 times a week, with an additional 6 training sessions on land. In total, I swim more than 90 km per week. My last record was 111.4 km swimming in one week, and I was exhausted after. Tired but satisfied!"

Texaco Lubricants has found an ambassador in Sharon who perfectly matches the reputation of its products: the best performance under all circumstances. Sharon: "Wanting to be number 1 means you want to beat everyone. In my view, that gives the extra incentive to become even better. That's why the Texaco brand and I fit together so well".





## PERSONAL NOTE

## NETHERLANDS AMBASSADOR

## IN DOHA, QATAR



More than ever, maintaining a healthy lifestyle is paramount. During these COVID-19 times, I, like many other working parents, had to find a balance between work, home schooling and keeping myself and our family healthy, both physically and mentally. With sports facilities closed, we discovered the more simple joys of exercising like taking a walk outside, playing table tennis or going for a swim. Now that sports clubs in Qatar are reopening, we are settling back into our regular sporting routines, but the simple joys

have become part of our routine now. The table tennis table will not be folded away

Sports constitute an important pillar within societies. Working together to reach a shared goal, sharing a victory or the pain of a loss all contribute to teambuilding and shaping character. Sports are also a powerful social leveler as it can foster friendships that cut across religious, social, class and gender divides. A striking example was the Workers' Fun Run that our embassy organized in 2019 to increase labour migrants' visibility in, and contribution to, Qatar's society.

The Netherlands and Qatar share strong ties in the area of sports. Many Dutch (sports) companies, including members of OSF's Partners for

International Business program, are contributing to Qatar's sports agenda. The Royal Dutch Football Association (KNVB) has a Memorandum of Understanding with Qatar's Football Association and numerous Dutch players and coaches are active in Qatar's Stars League. The KNVB's WorldCoaches program focused on training female coaches in Qatar to help develop women and girls' football.

Qatar recognizes the power of sports and has established itself as one of the world's premier hubs for global sports events. Qatar will host the FIFA World Cup in 2022 – the first country in the Middle East to host football's most prestigious tournament. The human rights situation is an important issue in the lead up and organization of the tournament, and one that the Netherlands discusses regularly with the responsible Qatari authorities. The Dutch government also contributes to the cooperation between Qatar's government and the International Labour Organisation to improve labour migrants' living and working conditions.

The Dutch government considers the private sector an important ally when it comes to respecting human rights, working conditions and the environment. It expects Dutch companies to do business abroad in line with international OECD and UN standards.

The Dutch embassy looks forward to an unforgettable World Cup in 2022 and stands ready to assist Dutch companies that seek to broaden and deepen their relationship with Qatar in the area of sports.

Marjan Kamstra

Ambassador



The Dutch embassy in Qatar has identified sports as one of its four economic priority areas. The embassy organized a trade mission focused on sports to Qatar in March 2019 led by Mr. André Driessen, director of the International Enterprise Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During this mission Mr. Driessen and Mr. Camil Smeulders, Orange Sports forum (OSF) board member, signed a 3-year Partners for International Business covenant that seeks to establish sustainable sports ties between Qatar and the Netherlands in the areas of sports, innovation and vitality. In September 2019, a delegation from Aspire Academy and Qatar Financial Center visited the Netherlands to promote Sport Accelerator – a program aimed at attracting foreign sports companies to establish a local office in Doha. The Qatari delegation met with the PIB members and visited the Johan Cruyff Arena's innovation center. The embassy organized another trade mission focused on sport in March 2020. These activities have resulted in several contracts awarded to PIB members.



























The COVID-19 pandemic has made it almost impossible to organize physical activities and meetings within the PIB program's framework. To overcome these challenges, the embassy and OSF have proactively shifted toward organizing digital economic activities. We look forward to welcoming OSF members and other Dutch sport companies to a series of business webinars in the near future.

Numerous Dutch sports companies have been able to secure contracts in Qatar over the course of the last few years. Two of them would like to share their story with you – in their own words.



#### **Signify**

Philips Lighting – currently known as Signify – was established under Qatar Financial Center in November 2015. Signify recently moved its offices to Sport Accelerator (https://www. sportaccelerator.ga/) building in Aspire. Signify is the proud contributor to Oatar's 2030 vision by creating lighting experiences in and around the world-renowned 2019 IAAF World Athletics Championships, playing an instrumental role in lighting the debut of the midnight marathon. Signify has installed purpose-built lighting towers to illuminate the 7km waterfront promenade. The Doha Corniche is equipped with 1,840 Philips ArenaVision LEDs and controls, meeting the lighting requirements set by international broadcasters and the international athletics organization. Khalifa Stadium, the first LED stadium in the country, is also one of the eight stadia prepared for the 2022 football tournament where Signify's connected lighting system Interact Sports is installed, guaranteeing a fully immersive viewing experience for spectators. The sustainable lights help TV cameras capture the action and the incredible emotion and passion that such tournaments generate. The light also provides exceptional visibility on the field, helping participating athletes to reach their potential and entertain billions of people watching around the world.



#### SGL

SGL is the supplier of grass growth improvement technology in all eight stadiums of the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar. Growing grass in a desert climate is a challenge. SGL supplies an advanced monitoring system that measures and analyzes all growth factors in the stadiums. Algorithms are used to, amongst many other things, calculate where and when to use lighting systems that stimulate grass growth, which SGL also supplies exclusively. Nico van Vuuren, founder of SGL: "Climatic conditions naturally play a role when it comes to keeping a pitch in top quality. When developing a maintenance plan, it is also important, in addition to the climate, to take the user intensity of the pitch into account. That is of course a completely different story with a World Cup than when a match is played once every fourteen days. With all the data and experience that we have collected over the years, we are very well able to predict what a pitch needs under any circumstance." Worldwide, the company is involved in making the turf perfectly playable in more than 350 stadiums.

## THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE

## OF HOCKEY (EIH)

Marijke Fleuren, President of the European Hockey Federation said: "From the start of my tenure in 2011, one of EHF's goals, especially driven by Jorge Alcover (past Vice president and Member of Honour of the EHF) was to strengthen our connections, knowledge and mutual trust with the EU and its Agencies, to ensure that the EHF would be well placed to start to working together with the EU so that we could consolidate and grow our development and educations programmes".

Marijke and Jorge's goals have been realized. Since 2018 the European Hockey Federation whose Headquarters are in Brussels has been involved in several European Union projects. Encouraging, promoting and developing support for the national growth of all member federations of the European Hockey Family.

This has included working alongside the hockey governing bodies of the Czech Republic and the Ukraine twinned with the Royal Dutch Hockey Federation (KNHB) implementing good governance strategy and policy from their Dutch counterparts.

Furthermore, we are partnered with SWinG (Supporting Women in Achieving their Goals) where 10 partner organisations in a pan European multi-sport project have set up a dedicated mentor and mentee programme connecting top businesswomen (mentors) with women aspiring for leadership positions in sport (mentees).



Photography by Col Morley pro-pix.com

#### **LET'S PRESS PLAY AGAIN**

Good news beckoned in late October 2020 with the announcement the EACEA to the EHF of a grant approval of €397k. This would support the development and education frameworks for the European hockey network of members nations of the EHF. To maximize understanding, implementation and application.

In a nutshell the EHF's latest successful funding application will develop a world class educational framework, under the banner of the EIH (European Institute for Hockey). More sharing of knowledge, through teaching, mentoring & facilitating the ideal programmes and environments for the correct audience.



The EHF currently has globally recognised programmes that are delivered under our own remits. The EHF is already viewed continental hockey federation leaders for our programme delivery. The aim is to review these programmes as signal entities and grow a framework around this to allow structural and sustainable growth across all our member federations.

#### **STRONG PARTNERSHIPS**

The EHF will build upon and enhance the current good practice structures in place. Developing the EIH with four strategic pillars (listed below) that allow national growth across the network of member federations in Europe.



▲ Photography by Col Morley pro-pix.com

The selection of partners for this project was of the upmost importance to the EHF. With a range of hockey federations of different sizes, with different resources from different regions of Europe – allowing for a wide range of perspectives to be shared.

It was critical to was find partners such as the Orange Sport Forum whom could link Sport and Business together strategically, which is especially important for the output around dual career development for athletes.

#### **STRATEGIC PILLARS**

The project will build on and enhance the good practice structures by developing the EIH with four strategic pillars that facilitate sustainable, high quality national growth across member federations in Europe. The project will enhance Governance through leadership and





















#### **INTELLECTUAL OUTCOMES, [FUTURE]**

The Erasmus+ offers flexibility in terms of activities that Collaborative Partnerships can implement, the submitted proposal demonstrated the appropriate objectives defined through 9 (nine) intellectual outcomes (table 2) that cover a broad range of educational activity.

The project will establish the EIH with an educational structure within the timeline to the intellectual outputs that will form a bridge between national qualifications systems/pathways. Developing skills to create purposeful learning for those in decision making roles within hockey.

▼ (table 2, Intellectual Outputs)

- 1 TITLE: International Sports Federation Frameworks for Education TYPE: ACADEMIC RESEARCH REPORT DESCRIPTION: An insight report into the education programmes and processes used in international sports federations.
- 2 *TITLE*: Educational Framework for the Teaching and Learning of Good Governance

TYPE: Toolkit

**DESCRIPTION:** A resource and training information pack for member associations to adopt and implement good governance policy.

- 3 TITLE: European Hockey Leadership and Management TYPE: Forum and Paper DESCRIPTION: A platform for the development of skillsets to create purposeful learning for those in decision making roles within hockey.
- 4 TITLE: Athlete Dual Career Development
  TYPE: Duty of Care Framework and Pilot
  DESCRIPTION: Implementation of a duty of care pillar for athletes
  in sports or business across administration, marketing and
  communications
- 5 TITLE: Coach Development Pillar for Europe
  TYPE: Coaching Pathway / Framework
  DESCRIPTION: Developing a fit for purpose coaching framework
  that supports national growth (and new) access to coach
  education across member hockey associations.

The provision of career guidance and support via academic and business opportunities for athletes' dual careers. Whilst also developing member associations pathways to develop coaching and ensuring the correct structured, qualified workforce to deliver training needs

Highlighting the importance of education, learning and skills transference in sport will be important in the project alongside the analysis of key findings to enable a sustainability and transferability of the intellectual outputs.

- 6 TITLE: Creating the Future Fit for Purpose Workforce
  TYPE: Workforce / Training / Pilot
  DESCRIPTION: Development of standardisations across workforce
  needs for educational pillars of the European Institute for Hockey.
- 7 *TITLE*: Global and Public Launch of the European Institute for Hockey (EIH)

TYPE: Communication Campaign

**DESCRIPTION:** The formal launch campaign for the opening of the European Institute for Hockey.

- 8 TITLE: Findings of the European Hockey Frameworks for Educational Output
  TYPE: Academic Research Report / Publication
  DESCRIPTION: An insight report on the education pillars created for the EIH; which processes should and can be used in international sports federation educational development.
- 9 TITLE: Legacy and Future Impact
  TYPE: Academic Research Report
  DESCRIPTION: A deep dive review on the sustainability and transferability of the intellectual outputs of the EIH.

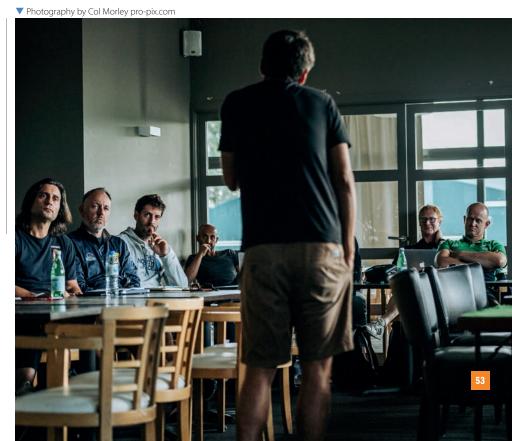


management. It will enable an athlete centred approach to dual careers. It will create coaching frameworks and workforce requirements that enhance grassroots development and improve workforce requirements.

- 1 Governance, leadership, and management
- 2 Athlete centered approach, including dual careers and duty of care
- 3 Coaching framework that enhances grassroots and workforce requirements
- 4 Officiating framework that enhances grassroots and workforce requirements



▲ Photography by Col Morley pro-pix.com



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	ww.freesense-solutions.com
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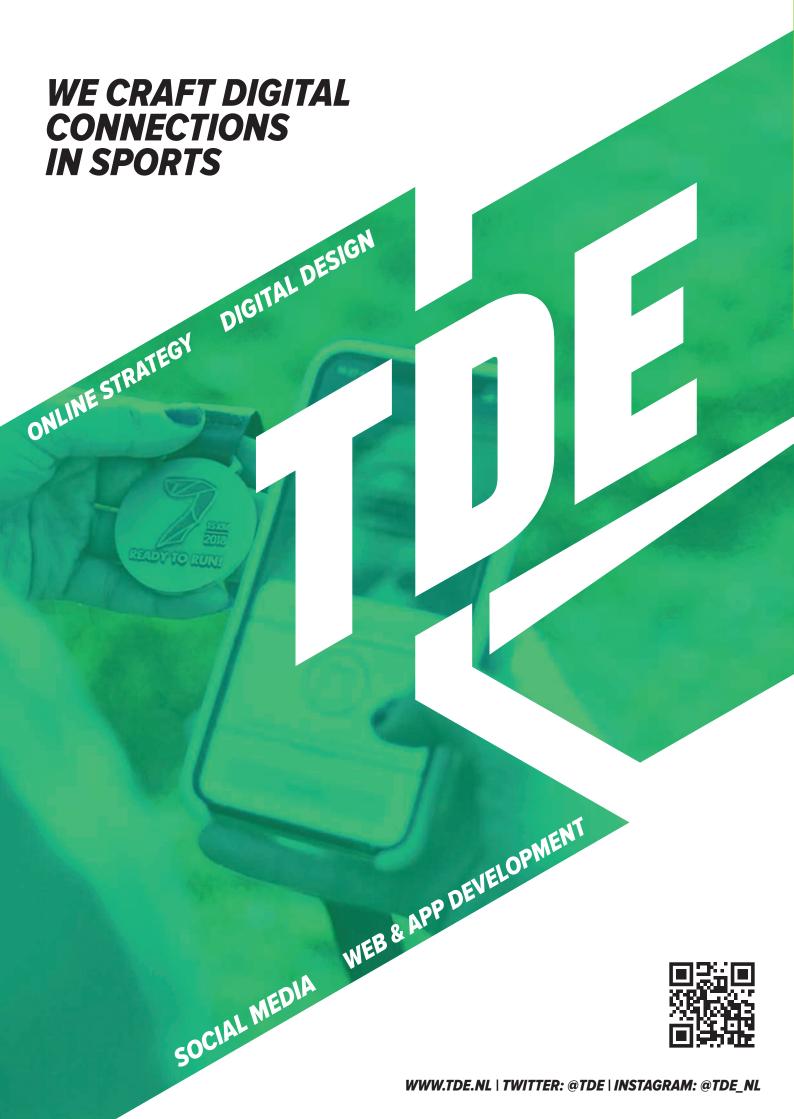
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## VDL Seating Systems



#### VDL Seating Systems – strength through cooperation

Via the VDL Seating Systems sales cluster, several VDL companies join forces, combining their strengths in design, production, sales and installation. VDL Seating Systems has a wide collection of different seats and construction solutions for bucket, tip-up, VIP and safe standing seats. With design, engineering, production and project management all covered and coordinated by one company, VDL is the perfect partner for your seats.

**VDL Groep**, headquartered in Eindhoven, the Netherlands, is an international strong industrial family business with 106 operating companies, spread throughout 20 countries, with over 15,000 employees. The VDL companies break down into four divisions: Subcontracting, Car Assembly, Buses and Coaches and Finished products.

VDL Seating Systems designed their own bucket, tip-up and safe standing seats (rail seats) together with the different VDL companies to be most costs efficient in design, production and installation. Also VIP seats can be designed on request in almost every colour or material. For most upholstered seats it is possible to implement heating inside the seats which overall can lead to very cost efficient heating management that can easily get connected to green energy.





# RSI ON A QUEST TO REALIZE FULLY CIRCULAR ARTIFICIAL TURF

All over the continent, there are huge piles of used sports fields lying around.

A vast amount of soccer and hockey fields are being placed and replaced annually.

Recycling them is so complex of a process that it would cost far more than it would yield.

RSI is searching to find a solution where waste is be re-used; From grass to grass!



The Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport (VWS) had RSI, as an independent one-stop concept provider of innovative, sustainable and premium quality sports infrastructure to continue researching the development of a single-material artificial turf system.

RSI came up with a 'monomer concept'; a project aims to develop an artificial turf field that can easily be recycled into a new artificial turf field at the end of its economic lifespan. "It will be much easier to recycle an artificial turf field when it is made of just one material, as this will make the recovered material of a higher quality that is easier for the recycling company to resell. This will result in artificial turf become a 100% circular product," says RSI's CEO Arnoud Fiolet.

At present, most artificial turf systems are made of at least three different materials that cannot be separated. Therefore, recyclers have no other







option but to offer the recovered materials for the production of lower-quality products such as picnic benches and kickboards.

"Almost all artificial grass fibers are made from polyethylene, while the backing is made from polypropylene. In addition, latex is used to ensure that the fibers remain in the backing. To date, no one is able to separate these three materials and re-offer them separately as raw materials."

In June 2019, RSI was one of several companies listed to win a tender by our the Dutch central government to develop a solution towards more sustainable sports artificial turf pitches.

RSI made it to the short-list of companies todo a feasibility study and was the of the two companies to win tender money to develop their innovative idea.

"It is a challenging quest to ensure that we are going to get artificial turf systems that meet all the strict requirements of clubs, players and the governing bodies without compromising on the quality and durability of an artificial turf system. That is why RSI will collaborate closely in this research with the various suppliers of raw materials, researchers and other specialists who focus on the quality of artificial turf." This includes companies like Nexteconomy.nu and NIAGA.

Orange Sport Forums (OSF) played an important role to bring these parties to together. Arun Swami Persaud (board member of OSF) explains, "We saw a good opportunity to bring Dutch expertise together to and come to an innovative solution. Especially for urban areas in the Netherlands, but also elsewhere in the world, there is a great need for playgrounds and sports fields that can be played intensively all year round under all kinds of weather conditions. RSI may have developed a prototype of artificial pitch that offers a perfect playing experience and is completely reusable".

"RSI strives day in, day out to deliver reliable, sustainable and innovative sports fields. The confidence shown by the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport therefore stimulates us even more to achieve a good result," concludes Fiolet.





#### **About RSI**

Recreational Systems International develops and installs Reliable, Sustainable and Innovative solutions that facilitate sports. The RSI portfolio includes infrastructure such as artificial grass and hybrid sports fields as well as LED grass growth technology, air domes, LED floodlighting, and sports performance solutions. The portfolio is supplemented with FIKA GEAR training material and attributes.

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#### Reliable, Sustainable and Innovative

Recreational Systems International packages innovative construction and maintenance solutions for sports fields and infrastructure into concepts. "There is much more to gain from an all-inclusive eco-friendly approach towards building, maintaining and removing sports surfaces and infrastructure than ruthlessly pursuing the financial bottom line," says Arnoud Fiolet.

The final months of 2019 have made it clear that 2020 will be a watershed for venue owners and municipalities around the globe. "It has become evident that society no longer tolerates the abuse of nature and natural resources in a quest for profit," says the managing director of Recreational Systems International. He points to a moratorium on infrastructural projects in the Netherlands as an example. "In July this year the Dutch government issued a directive that has made it virtually become impossible to break ground for infrastructural projects where soil is replaced to construct a subbase. I wouldn't be surprised if other countries followed suit." As RSI has anticipated the new trend for sustainable sports infrastructure and maintenance methods, the catalogue is packed with innovations that have a common denominator: all-in-one concepts that deliver reliable and sustainable sports infrastructure.

#### Stadium concept

The RSI stadium concept focusses on delivering and maintaining a quality stadium field. "We offer everything needed to achieve the best possible natural or artificial turf surface in any venue. Our portfolio ranges from low energy pitch heating and cooling technologies to grass grow and sustainable maintenance equipment," says Fiolet. Cutting edge technologies like UV-C light, which has a 98% success rate in keeping grass surfaces free from algae, fungi and diseases, to LED grass grow technology dominate the RSI portfolio. "Our LED grass grow system is the only system that can be used for stimulating the rootzone as well as for leaf growth." It is an energy-conscious technology that delivers adequate support with pinpoint accuracy. Pinpoint accuracy also best describes water usage in the RSI Hydro Artificial Turf System (HATS). "This revolutionary concept uses mineral wool to manage water in the subbase of a field. It absorbs excess water and releases it into the top-layer when needed." Other ground-breaking technologies are the drainage systems, hybrid grass surfaces, turf covering technologies and turf protection systems. "The latter have even been used for the Olympics." However, it is the Base Panel that stands out of all products RSI offers. "This shock-absorbing layer, made of recycled plastic, enables us to install a quality pitch on any surface without disrupting the location," Fiolet explains. Where most artificial turf surfaces require the replacement of 50 centimeters of soil, the Base Panel only requires the top 10 centimeters to be worked.

#### **Multicourt concept**

The Base Panel is also a key element of the Multicourt concept. "It has enabled us constructing constructed playgrounds and mini-courts on rooftops and in parking lots," Fiolet continues. Perhaps the RSI Skills Parks and Athletic Skills Tracks are the biggest beneficiaries. "These small-sided fields have obstacle courses and

exercises tufted into the field. They have become a popular way for clubs to expand training capacity, improve players and offer something exciting to members." RSI installs these mini pitches with boarding and netting to protect spectators. "Tutorials on the boarding are self-explanatory. A modular concept is available for roadshows or marketing purposes." Based on the requirements, RSI can also recommend their Sports Panels. "These hardcourt titles provide flooring that can be used for hockey, tennis, basketball and many other sports. They have been finished with a special coating that makes them suitable for both outdoor and indoor usage."

#### Airdome concept

Clubs and municipalities often start with an RSI Multicourt concept before moving on to an RSI Airdome concept. "The temporary nature of Airdomes means that they don't require permits or permissions often associated with brick and mortar structures. Our Airdome concept delivers a fully kitted temporary indoor facility." The domes are made of high quality but translucent fabric. "They can be delivered with LED floodlighting and a heating system to improve the indoor climate and conditions." The concept also includes Sports Panels for clubs that don't have an adequate floor for indoor activities. Grouping items together into concepts makes sense, Fiolet says. "Investing in a surface or facility is only the first step. Your collective tools for operating and maintaining the surface will make a difference. Considering those upfront will save you resources and time."















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## **TEAM JUMBO-VISMA**

## "Exposure for Team Jumbo-Visma in a time without exposure"

In January the Tour Down Under, in February some small stage races and then working through the spring classics to the three grand tours. This would have roughly been the program of the World Tour peloton. This also applies to Team Jumbo-Visma, the only Dutch cycling team to compete at the highest level.

The squad with top riders such as Tom Dumoulin, Primoz Roglic and Wout van Aert was ready to fire their guns. Until corona threw a spanner in the works at the beginning of March.



The buses and trucks were no longer loaded. The legs were no longer massaged by the soigneurs. No interviews, autographs or photos with fans for the professional cyclists. Bib numbers were no longer pinned. The world was hit by the corona pandemic and the entire cycling peloton slowly came to a halt. One race organisation squeezed the brakes earlier than another, but eventually everyone got in the broom wagon.

Uncertain weeks followed. Will there be any racing at all this year? Surely the Tour de France will continue? Team Jumbo-Visma was disappointed. After a good 2019, in which the team managed to win more than fifty times, the Dutch team went all out for the yellow dream: winning the Tour de France.

In cycling, races are the best way to provide sponsors with exposure. The big races are broadcasted in countless countries and reach a large audience. This added value for sponsors also disappeared: no races, no TV broadcasts, no exposure. Or at least a lot less. Though that desired exposure can also be offered in times without live sports, Team Jumbo-Visma showed in the period without racing.

Sander Kruis, commercial manager at Team Jumbo-Visma, can still remember his reaction to the loss of many sports competitions. "Both me

and my colleagues were very disappointed. We all love sports and everyone wants to contribute to it. Our work revolves around sports and that was completely gone. It really was a bit of a switch in the beginning." His colleague Jasper Saeijs, marketing manager at the Dutch team, did not find it easy as a sports fan that he had ended up in this situation. "We were really looking forward to this season, both from a sports point of view and commercially. We were ready to perform in a fantastic way, while also creating visibility for our partners."

In the weeks that followed, many meetings were held at Team Jumbo-Visma. In a digital way, of course. After all, working from home was the national advice in the Netherlands. "It emerged from those meetings that we as a team wanted and had to attack this situation in order to come out in a stronger way", Saeijs says. "We didn't look at the limitations, but at the opportunities. From a marketing perspective we wanted to be visible despite no races being held. Even without races, how could we keep involving the fans and our partners with the team? How could we, as a team, still ensure sufficient exposure for our partners? And could we also find a way to address our social responsibility by encouraging people to exercise enough, despite the situation? We asked ourselves those kinds of questions. Quite a lot of initiatives emerged from that."







All these initiatives were linked on a landing page with the theme 'Stay Safe Together'. The webpage featured interviews with riders, it was possible to play various quizzes and a new talk show was published every week in which riders looked back on special moments in their career. For example, Tom Dumoulin and Jos van Emden looked back on the Giro d'Italia of 2017, when Van Emden won the final time trial and Dumoulin took the overall victory. Dylan Groenewegen also had a chat in one of the talk shows and spoke about his victory on the Champs-Élysées, together with ex-teammate and current sports director of the Jumbo-Visma Development Team, Robert Wagner. Fans of Team Jumbo-Visma could not only listen to the riders of Team Jumbo-Visma, but they could even meet their idols. Via a digital 'Meet & Greet' it was possible for cycling enthusiasts to ask the riders questions. Healthy diet tips were also shared, fitness exercises were performed by the top athletes, and mechanics explained how to maintain your bike.

It was also possible for cycling fans to keep in touch with Team Jumbo-Visma on a sporting level. Online training rides were organised, which enabled everyone with a Tacx trainer to ride with one or more professional riders. "Per 'social ride', as we called it, one or two thousand people rode along", Saeijs says. "We noticed that people wanted to stay busy. In this way, they both stayed in touch with the team and they kept active. A win-win situation. Our internal competition resulted from these social rides. For four weeks, our riders competed every Sunday on Tacx trainers for the victory in the online cycling environment Zwift. The race was broadcast on the website of the Algemeen Dagblad and the

environment Zwift. The race was broadcast on the website of the Algemeen Dagblad and the

social media channels of the cycling team. After the race, the riders were interviewed, as is the case after a real race. That helped us to create a lot of exposure. We had the media value of all our initiatives measured. This study showed that we achieved more media value in the spring of 2020 than in the spring of 2019. It is unprecedented that we managed to achieve more media value in a period without competitions than with competitions. In this way we really provided our partners with a good amount of exposure. We can be proud that, despite such a difficult period, we managed to achieve this."

At the time, commercial manager Kruis kept in close contact with sponsors and received cheerful responses. "They found it admirable how we were looking for opportunities to get 'in the picture'. That was very much appreciated, and it helped us maintain our good relationships with partners in a less easy time."



Team Jumbo-Visma was also busy in the field of hospitality. While in normal times it is possible to visit the team at a race, this was not possible this year due to all the corona measures. "After it had become clear that it would be difficult to receive quests at races, we also looked for alternatives in this area", says Claudia van Berkel, sponsorship coordinator at Team Jumbo-Visma. "Normally we offer a hospitality program where guests are really part of the team. Guests arrive the day before the stage and get a dinner. Then they take a look at the team hotel and have a chat with the team. In the morning they will have a look at the start of the stage. During the stage, the guests will be on the side a few times to follow the race, but also to provide the riders with bottles. In this way we offer quests a real cycling experience.

For our bigger sponsors we offer a truly exclusive package, where it is possible to take a seat in the sports directors' car during the race. It's a great pity that this is currently not possible, because it's a very cool experience for the guests. We also notice this through the positive reactions from guests. It's an experience you can't have in any other sport. Getting so close to the riders and the peloton is what makes our hospitality program so great."



An alternative was developed: a hospitality experience in the Netherlands where corona measures could be observed. "Thanks to our partner Shimano we were able to visit the Shimano Experience Center in Valkenburg. There we could safely receive groups of thirty people. Those viewing events were a combination of cycling itself and watching a stage in the Tour de France. We tried to incorporate that unique flavour of our offer into the viewing events. It had a real Team Jumbo-Visma feeling. For example: we drove behind the cycling groups with team cars and sports director Merijn Zeeman told us on a daily basis what he expected from the stage that the guests would attend. We can certainly use this concept again in the future and apply it to our total offer. It's a very nice addition to the current activities of our team in the field of hospitality."

Cycling remains the core business of Team Jumbo-Visma, but the team has shown that it is not only good at cycling fast. Taking initiative and showing courage suits the Dutch cycling team and this became once more clear during the difficult corona crisis: exposure in a time without exposure. A strong example of crisis management from Team Jumbo-Visma.









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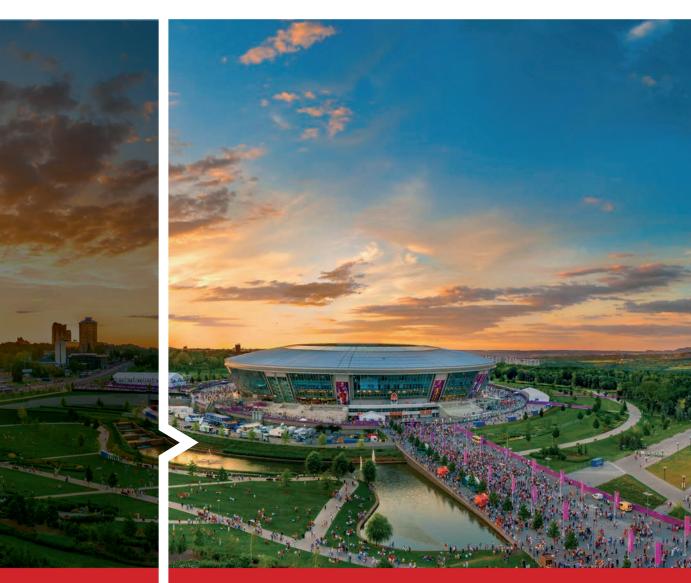


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## 'Our ambition is for the Netherlands to become the most innovative country in the world when it comes to sports.'

# SPORTS INNOVATION IN THE NETHERLANDS



Sportinnovator wants to maximise the impact of sports innovation and help the Netherlands become a world leader.

Thinking ahead, responding to trends, new ways of exercising and practising sports, applying knowledge and technology, societal innovations. Anything that will promote physical exercise, have an impact on society and encourage progress. All of this together means that by 2028, the Netherlands will be the most innovative country in the world in the field of sports innovation, thanks to proven forms of cooperation. This is the ambition of Harry van Dorenmalen, chair of the 'Top Team for Sport', which runs the Sportinnovator programme.



First of all, could you explain what Sportinnovator is exactly, and what it does?

'The Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport created the Top Team for Sport in 2014,' explains van Dorenmalen. 'The team consists of nine people – prominent representatives from sports, the business community, local authorities and science. I was asked to serve as chair. We were asked to come up with a Knowledge and Innovation Agenda for Sport and to involve

the business community and local authorities in this, in addition to sports and science. But the aim of the agenda is not just to produce innovations that can help us to win gold medals at the Olympic Games – we take a much broader perspective. We want to innovate for everyone across the whole range of sports, and to encourage everybody in the Netherlands to exercise more by supporting innovations that will have an impact on public health and society as a whole. We identify innovations in sports, evaluate them, encourage improvements and make them scalable for the sports sector and for wider society. That's why we set up the Sportinnovator programme, which is implementing the Knowledge and Innovation Agenda for Sport.'

#### **Network of Sportinnovator Centres**

The Top Team for Sports does not come up with those innovations itself. You create the right conditions for those innovations to come about and then you help them to grow and develop. How do you go about doing that?

There are many different ways that we do this. Let's start with our national network of 14 Sportinnovator Centres. This network is truly unique in the world. The Sportinnovator Centres are meeting places where researchers, entrepreneurs, government bodies and sports organisations can work together. This leads to the development of high-potential innovations that really contribute to professional sports, participation in sports and active lifestyles. These innovations also strengthen our knowledge

base for sports and can lead to new businesses or generate value for society. Every Sportinnovator Centre has its own area of expertise. The Centres have recently been certified and are therefore Certified Partners for Sportinnovator. That gives us a guarantee of the quality and uniqueness of the centres. The ultimate goal is to create a sustainable network or ecosystem. The centres all work together to develop innovations, and they also act as drivers for innovation in the Netherlands and internationally.'

#### A few examples

Can you give us some examples of successful innovations that you have supported through Sportinnovator in recent years?

'There are so many, but I can highlight a few. Let's start with Sport Data Valley, because we are really proud of that. Data is becoming increasingly important in every area, and that includes sports. But all that data is often fragmented and stored in many different places. To bring it all together, we at Sportinnovator thought it was important to create a national digital platform to make all that data available more easily. We wanted a platform offering analytical tools that all target groups can access: professional athletes, amateur athletes, coaches and scientists. Well, since last September, Sport Data Valley in Leiden has been doing exactly that. I won't go into too much detail because there is an interview with Auke Damstra from Sport Data Valley elsewhere in this Sportinnovator supplement. He knows much more about it than I do.'



# The Project Tokyo track bike

So Sport Data Valley is an example of how Sportinnovator is creating a better environment for innovation, and in this case that has led to improved digital infrastructure. Can you also give us an example of an innovative product?

'Of course. I'd like to mention our most iconic project - Project Tokyo - which has resulted in a new track bike that Dutch track cyclists hope will help them win gold at the Olympic Games in Japan next year. The Sports Engineering Institute of TU Delft (a Certified Partner of Sportinnovator) has been working closely with bicvcle manufacturer KOGA and Actiflow, a company that specialises in aerodynamics. But more importantly still, the whole development of the track bike was carried out in partnership with the Royal Dutch Cycling Union (KNWU) and successful track cyclists like Jeffrey Hoogland and Harrie Lavreysen. Together, they have been able to roll out a super-fast custom bike that's going to make other countries' jaws drop. It's a spectacular achievement.'

The track bike has been developed for professional sport. Does Sportinnovator also encourage innovations for club sports?

We certainly do. For example, we have organised an innovation challenge for energy-neutral sports facilities at sports clubs. That resulted in five winning innovations, which are now being developed further with funding from Sportinnovator. I think the best example is the rollup solar carpet that can be placed over artificial grass pitches in order to generate solar energy for the club, the local area or the village where the club is located when the pitch isn't in use. Brilliant!'

## **Societal impact**

The aim of Sportinnovator is also to make an impact on society. How do you go about doing that?

'In various ways. Everyone knows that exercise is crucial to a fit and healthy life. And yet as a nation, we still do far too little exercise. That includes both young and old. So we support various projects that encourage people to exercise more. For example, a while ago we awarded an incentive prize for the MQ SchoolTest. It's an exercise trail that enables children to test their motor fitness. Thousands of children have now been able to assess their own motor skills. It's really relevant today.'

'Another example is the smart bicycle that TU Delft is working on together with Gazelle. The bike has a built-in motor in the handlebars that keeps you upright if you're in danger of falling over. That's wonderful for older people. They have built a prototype that is now being tested. We awarded this idea the National Sportinnovator Prize', says van Dorenmalen.

And you are also working on ideas for the coronavirus pandemic, I understand...

'That's right. Last summer, we set up a consortium with, among others, Eindhoven University of Technology, in order to investigate the air quality in a gym. That yielded valuable knowledge which is really helpful for indoor sports and fitness centres. And we also participate actively in various initiatives involving safe and responsible indoor sports, and with keeping sports events open to the public. To do that, we have organised two innovation competitions with a development budget of €1 million each, together with the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy and the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO). We are very optimistic that these innovations will make a useful contribution.'

## The 'quadruple-helix model'

The strength of Sportinnovator is that you bring sports, science, the business community and the public sector together.

'In our jargon we call this the quadruple-helix model. Our innovation projects involve close collaboration between local authorities, the business community, sports institutions and scientists. Sportinnovator has multiple roles to play in these projects: providing funding (or co-funding) and as a mediator, connector, advisor and promoter. We strongly believe that this model is good at bringing our target groups together into consortiums. Over the past five years, we have seen over 600 innovation projects. And we've seen that a strong front-end consortium can lead to successful innovation projects in the field of sport. Previously, the main role of Sportinnovator was to provide funding for projects, but nowadays we are also acting as a connector, motivator and consultant. The network of Sportinnovator Centres and Sport Data Valley provides exactly the physical and digital infrastructure that is needed.'

# THE SPORTINNO VATION FORMULA QUADRUPLE HELIX MODEL GOVERNMENT BUSINESSES Promote & Coach & Advise SCIENCE



### **International ambitions**

Sportinnovator not only focuses on the Netherlands, but it also has international ambitions. What do those ambitions involve?

'The Dutch market is too small for many sports innovations, so we have to look at the world market too,' explains van Dorenmalen. 'Sportinnovator aims to provide a springboard for Dutch sports innovations with international ambitions. We are also looking to a number of countries where interesting things are going on in the field of sports and exercise. For example, we have already invited a Danish group to give a Masterclass in outdoor exercise. And we keep 'Brussels' informed about the unique infrastructure and innovations that we are developing here in the Netherlands. We want to position the Netherlands as a leader in sports innovation within the EU.'

Sportinnovator has identified four themes for those international ambitions. Which themes are they?

'The four themes are Sport as Medicine, Young People & Sport, AI & Data in Sport, and Green Sports. We have chosen these themes because they are a good fit with the Olympic Games in Paris (2024) and Los Angeles (2028). And also because they offer plenty of opportunities for European cooperation. The new working programmes for Horizon Europe 2021-2027 are currently being developed, and we have created a link between the themes that the Netherlands is good at, the Brussels agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.'

Which specific countries is Sportinnovator focusing on?

'We are mainly focusing on the countries where the Olympic Games will be held in the next decade: Japan, China, France and the US. And we are also focusing on setting up European partnerships through the EU, which means that we already have regular contacts with Bulgaria and Denmark, for example.'

Where do you hope Sportinnovator and sports innovation in the Netherlands will be by the year 2028?

'By 2028, the Netherlands wants to have a reputation as the most innovative country in the world when it comes to sports innovation. We are absolutely committed to achieving this ambition through Sportinnovator. That's why we chose the year 2028, the year in which the Olympic Games will be held in Los Angeles. LA and the IOC are aiming to ensure that the LA games will be the most innovative ever. And we in the Netherlands are happy to lend a hand. And of course, that includes an impressive haul of medals,' he adds with a wink.

Text: Sportinnovator editorial team









# SPORT DATA VALLEY: THE WINNING LINK

# BETWEEN SPORTS AND SCIENCE

Sports data can provide a lot of useful information about how athletes are performing. But that data is not always easy to collect, analyse or share securely. Recently, there has been progress in these areas, however. In September 2020, Sport Data Valley launched an online platform that makes it quicker and easier to carry out research based on movement data. It also reduces the administrative burden of ensuring data privacy and makes scientific research and analysis more accessible to a wider audience of coaches and athletes.



Sport Data Valley is the leading national platform for research and analysis using data on sports and exercise. It's a place where amateur and professional athletes, coaches, supervisors and researchers collect huge quantities of sports-related data. This online platform gives researchers a place where they can analyse data, and it enables athletes and coaches to access these analyses. The insights that this yields can help improve athletic performance, prevent injuries and provide understanding why people do or do not exercise. Sport Data Valley links the worlds of sports and science, and it also has a social impact.

An animated conversation with managing director **Auke Damstra** about what makes this online platform – which is an initiative of Sportinnovator – so unique.

## A unique platform

'There's a data revolution going on in sports,' explains Damstra. 'So many measurements are being taken and collected using apps, sensors and spreadsheets. But it's difficult to draw any meaningful conclusions from this heap of data without the right tools. That's exactly where Sport Data Valley comes in: it makes it easier to analyse all that data.'

How does that work in practice?

'As a researcher, you can use Sport Data Valley to link, combine and analyse data sources yourself and maybe even publish new analytical models. And as a coach, you can use the same data links and a whole range of analytical models and dashboards. We also give researchers the opportunity to conduct research based on reallife data and to make their models available to other people. And we make it easier for coaches to access the latest scientific models and insights. In other words, we provide a direct link between sports and science.'

It sounds like something that could really help professional athletes, but are amateur sports enthusiasts also benefiting?

'Absolutely! Data analysis is no longer just the domain of professional athletes. These days, there are so many apps and wearable devices that track exercise data, like Fitbit, Garmin and Polar, so it's easier than ever for amateur athletes to use that data. But for people to do that, the data analysis also needs to be made accessible for amateurs, and that's exactly what our platform does. Most apps focus on visualising your activity. But if you want to go a step further and gain more insight from that data, you can use our platform.'

And what do sports coaches use it for?

'Coaches can get an impression of how someone is doing, how much progress they are making and where there are issues. And they can do that at both the individual and group level.'

Which sports use data the most at the moment? 'Data plays an important role in almost every sport! In the Netherlands, we see that the sports leading the way in data analysis are football, cycling, running, volleyball, sailing and - of course - speed skating.'



Do you have any good examples of data applications which could really make a difference, or which already have?

'Of course, there are many examples in professional sports, such as long-distance running – in 2019 we saw the first marathon in under two hours, even though it wasn't an official record. Data analysis played an essential role in that. But I think the biggest difference will be to enable people to exercise in healthier and smarter ways, and to continue exercising over the longer term. For example, sports injuries and the effect that they have cost us €2 billion every year in the Netherlands - in healthcare costs, absence from work and so on. And people enjoy sports much less when they are recovering from an injury. Here we can learn from professional sports, where injuries are prevented based on data-driven insights (such as exercise duration and RPE). If you could apply similar analyses on a wider scale, you could prevent many more sports injuries and help people to enjoy sports even more.'

How do you see the future of sports and data?

'Progress is accelerating, which will help us exercise more smartly and more sustainably. Ten years ago, it would have been hard to imagine that one day your mobile phone would be able to tell you whether you are executing your body squat correctly – from your pocket. But now we have apps that can do just that. And we don't think anything of it. So imagine a wrist band that measures your body temperature and breathing, and is therefore able to tell if you have any symptoms of COVID-19. The trend is towards healthier and smarter exercise, and data is playing an increasingly important role in that. But proper data privacy remains vital.'

Where do you hope Sport Data Valley will be in 5 to 10 years?

'We want to become the Adyen of exercise data analysis. Not everyone is familiar with Adyen, but if you've ever bought anything online you will have used it. We hope that anyone who wants to get the most out of sports data will be able to use Sport Data Valley in the future in a similar way. And we aim to become the leading international platform for research and analysis in sports and exercise data. That's my dream.'



Text: Sportinnovator editorial team





# RECYCLABLE CLIMBING HOLDS ARE WITHIN REACH



im Mullens

The GreenHolds Sportinnovator Icon Project is about to make a revolutionary breakthrough: high-quality, recyclable climbing holds in a circular system. This is a real game-changer, because climbing centres will no longer purchase climbing holds, but lease them. That means there are many other factors to take into account than just figuring out the best shape for the climbing hold.

Initiators Geert Voncken and Tim Mullens say that the development of recyclable climbing holds is going well. 'When we first started working on this idea, the aim was to find a sustainable raw material to make climbing holds from. But we soon discovered that the managers of climbing centres have no incentive to purchase sustainable climbing holds. Of course, it's nice if they can describe their holds as 'sustainable',' but if a sustainable hold is three times as expensive as a regular hold, it won't be very popular. So we learned a lot by meeting the people who run climbing centres,' explains Geert Voncken.

### **Consortium**

In March 2020, the project was officially launched, with all the partners in the consortium: Chemelot Innovation and Learning Labs (CHILL), Brightlands Chemelot Campus, Zuyd University of Applied Sciences, the Royal Dutch Climbing and Mountain Sports Association, Enbi Plastics BV, IVY Climbing and TSG Group. 'We discussed every aspect of the project, explaining what our goal was and why. Not all the partners knew very much about climbing as a sport, so it was an opportunity for us to inspire and excite them. Then we created a roadmap for the years ahead.'



Both Voncken and Mullens emphasise the importance of the consortium. 'You get so much out of it because everyone has their own area of expertise. CHILL and Zuyd University of Applied Sciences have a lot of in-house expertise on materials, so that's the area they focus on. The participation of the TSG Group and Brightlands also brought highly specialised knowledge into the consortium. It wasn't just about developing an innovative new climbing hold. Another important aspect was coming up with a circular overall usage concept.'

# The difference between linear sales and circular sales

The goal at GreenHolds was to come up with a concept in which the holds would not just be sold and then forgotten about. 'A linear sale model means that when the product reaches the end of its useful life, it will inevitably end up in the waste bin,' explains Mullens. 'Or, in the case of a climbing hold, in the incinerator. But our aim is to reuse and recycle the holds when they come to the end of their life cycle. To achieve that, we need to make sure that we retain ownership of the holds. So we don't sell them, we provide them 'as a service'. In other words, the climbing halls lease the holds from us. Either way, we still own them. That's how we can achieve a circular model.'

### **Materials**

To come up with a recyclable climbing hold, you have to consider all the materials used. 'Currently, holds are made from two plastics that cannot be reused or converted once they have been produced,' explains Voncken. We want to use materials for which this is not the case. That idea came about through collaboration within the consortium. Because a completely different method of production would simply be too costly.' Mullens adds: 'Our plan to lease the holds also makes this more affordable for customers.

That's because customers will get a complete product and service package. They don't need to buy expensive climbing holds, because the holds remain our property and the price also includes maintenance. In addition, the development of the new hold doesn't cost the customer anything. And to top it all off, we can also design the climbing routes and install the holds on the wall. If the owner of a climbing wall were to do all this for themselves, it would cost them a lot of money. Any radical change in the production process takes time, effort and money. And not every climbing centre has that kind of money to spend.'

## **Climbing is growing in popularity**

Climbing is set to grow significantly in the next few years, says Tim Mullens. 'It has been calculated that at least 3,500 new climbing gyms will be opened around the world in the next decade. There are a number of factors behind this. In 2021, climbing will become an Olympic sport, which will raise the profile of the sport and provide confirmation that it really is a 'proper' sport – not just something you do on a day out. It's also an individual sport, and sports that you can do on your own are getting more and more popular these days.'

'The climbing centre that we are working with in our consortium has also noticed that the national championships are growing in popularity,' says Mullens. But one of our priorities is for our recyclable climbing holds to be used in the Olympic climbing events at the 2024 Games in Paris'.

The first official competition using the new climbing holds could be held in a year from

The national championship in 2021 will be a leading contender.

Text: Sportinnovator editorial team



'By combining the high public profile of sports with the innovative strength of science and business, we can make a real impact.'

# SPORTS, SCIENCE AND

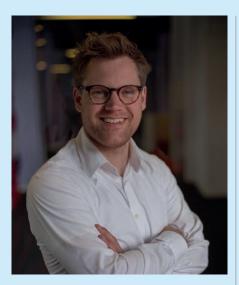
# THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY:

# A WINNING FORMULA

# FOR INNOVATION



The Sports Engineering Institute at TU Delft aspires to lead the world in the field of Sports Engineering and is working systematically with leading international partners to achieve this ambition. Business Director Daan Bregman explains how the Sports Engineering Institute brings together the worlds of sports, science and business for its innovation projects. The Project Tokyo track bike is the perfect example.



Daan Bregman, TU Delft: A
Certified Partner of Sportinnovator

'At our institute, we aim to apply all the fundamental knowledge that is available within Delft University of Technology to the field of sport,' explains Daan Bregman. 'This can mean innovation in professional-level sport or improvements for people who enjoy recreational sport, but we also aim to tackle societal issues. For example, we're working on innovations that could get more people in the Netherlands exercising regularly. That's a highly relevant theme these days, and especially now during the pandemic. We want to make sure

that science, sports and the business community are all working together as closely as possible through our projects.'

## **Sports, science and the business community**

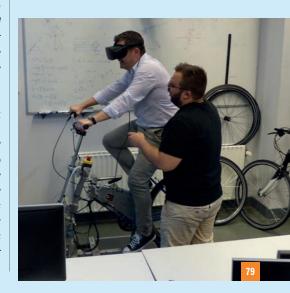
'Science and sports are striving to make improvements together, and to identify areas where innovation is still required,' says Bregman. 'That doesn't always mean we need new knowledge. Sometimes, innovation can be achieved by combining existing knowledge in order to come up with a new product or application. But it's crucial that the business community is involved in that innovation process right from the start, because in the end you will of course need a manufacturer that can bring a product to the market. So all three components are important if you want to make an impact.'

What kind of companies are you talking about exactly?

'On the one hand, there are companies that make their money directly from sports. So companies like Nike and Adidas, which are active in the wider sports sector. And then there are also companies which are involved in sports sponsorships as a way of increasing public awareness of their brand. Those companies could be banks, insurance companies or car manufacturers.'

And you bring them all together....

'Yes that's right. At the Sports Engineering Institute, we also work on innovation with the companies that provide sponsorships. That helps those companies stay up to date with processes that they have an interest in. And at the same time, they also gain publicity by showcasing their partnerships with athletes. So we combine increased visibility for sports with the innovative strength of the business world – and that's a very attractive combination. Everybody benefits: sports, science and the business community. It's a win-win-win situation!'



# Project Tokyo: the track bike that could help propel the Dutch team to gold

One exciting 'win-win-win' is Project Tokyo – the result of which is a new track bike that Dutch track cyclists hope will help propel them to gold at the Tokyo Olympics next year. Daan Bregman explains how the partnership came about.

'It all began with the Royal Dutch Cycling Union (KNWU), which noticed that an outstanding generation of track cyclists was moving up through the rankings. The KNWU wanted to give them the best possible equipment. Then the sponsor, KOGA, made extra funding available for innovation and knowledge acquisition, including for the longer term. Once it became clear that the project would result in a new bike, meetings were held every six weeks for two years to make sure that everyone could provide input. Those sessions were attended by KOGA, the KNWU, Delft University of Technology, Pontis Engineering, Actiflow and - perhaps most importantly - the track cyclists themselves. The track bike is the perfect example of how you can take the ideas that you have as a scientist about how a bike could be improved and work

on those directly with the riders themselves, because the KNWU was involved, and with the manufacturer so that they can build those improvements straight into the new bike. That's when you really see the added value of the triangle: science, business and sports, all sitting down at the same table together.'

### **Next steps**

Bregman says that Project Tokyo is just the start of a whole new approach.

'The development of this new bike is a great example of how publicity for sports and innovation can reinforce each other. The ambition is to establish a series of projects like this one ahead of the Olympic Games in Paris in 2024'

Bregman is referring to the assignment that his institute, as a certified partner of the Sportinnovator network, has received from the Top Team for Sports as part of promoting collaborative innovation.

'TU Delft has many relationships with large companies in the Netherlands. The NOC\*NSF, the KNWU and other similar organisations also have those contacts, but we have to ensure that they are linked to sponsorships and marketing. At Delft University of Technology, we are leading the way right now, but the ultimate goal is that this kind of partnership will be set up at many other universities too.'

Bregman says that this is the way to scale up sports innovation in the Netherlands. 'About €430 million is spent on sports sponsorships every year. And on top of that, the business community spends about €200 million on direct knowledge acquisition from the major universities. But there is currently no link between that spending. If we can link the sponsorship funding and the money that is spent on general innovation, as KOGA and the KNWU have done in track cycling, we can really make huge strides in the field of sports innovation.'

Text: Sportinnovator editorial team





# 'It takes courage and guts, but also confidence to experiment together.'

# THE JOHAN CRUIJFF ARENA IN THE EYE OF THE STORM

From the start of the coronavirus pandemic, it was clear that the events industry was going to be hit hard.

The Johan Cruijff ArenA – the largest event location in the Netherlands – was caught right in the eye of the storm and has been working flat-out for months to get the public back into the stands safely.

We talked to CEO Henk Markerink and his Chief Innovation Officer Henk van Raan about crisis management, the importance of allowing scope for experimentation as part of innovation, and a mandatory health check.

How has your working week changed since 16 March, the day after the Dutch government announced radical measures to limit the spread of the coronavirus?

Henk Markerink, CEO of the Johan Cruijff ArenA: 'My working week looks completely different now. Before 16 March, we were constantly planning events, coming up with new ideas, looking ahead. But since the pandemic, my management team and I have had to focus solely on crisis management and answering one key question: is there enough money in the bank to keep the company afloat? So I'm spending a lot of time meeting banks and lawyers to enforce our contracts and make sure all our bills get paid. It's a lot of hard work. And part of the challenge is that when your income dries up overnight, you have to reduce your costs straight away. So unfortunately we've also had to say goodbye to ten of our people. That was very painful.'



Henk Markerink - © Photo: Jorrit Lousberg







### **Alliance of Event Builders**

The ArenA is not the only event location that has run into problems due to the pandemic. The entire industry was immediately thrown into disarray. It quickly became clear that companies in the sector were all facing the same problems, but that there was little organised solidarity. They are not used to working together.

Markerink: 'There's no common platform that brings together all the players in sports and entertainment so that they can speak up for the interests of our sector with one voice,' explains Markerink. 'That's why we set up the Alliance of Event Builders in May, so that we can lobby the government for example.'

The Alliance is working for financial support from the government for the entire events sector and arguing for the development of procedures that will enable people to be safely admitted to the venues and stadiums again. The Alliance is also involved in setting up field labs – trial locations where innovative solutions can be tried out in the hope that these could make it possible to hold events again. The Johan Cruijff ArenA is one of those field labs.

## **Experimenting in the field labs**

Henk van Raan, CIO of the Johan Cruijff ArenA: 'We really need that scope for experimentation if we are going to make any progress. But we have to push the boundaries very cautiously. Everyone is very careful because we still know so little about the coronavirus.'

Markerink adds: 'It's great that the ArenA has been designated as a field lab, both in Amsterdam and nationally, but in our opinion there are still too many limitations. For example, we're not allowed to conduct tests with unproven technologies. That feels a bit like trying to find innovative solutions with your hands tied behind your back. We are currently being governed by people who are basically saying "you're not allowed to do anything, unless". I think that a different approach is needed. It takes courage and guts, but also confidence to experiment together.'

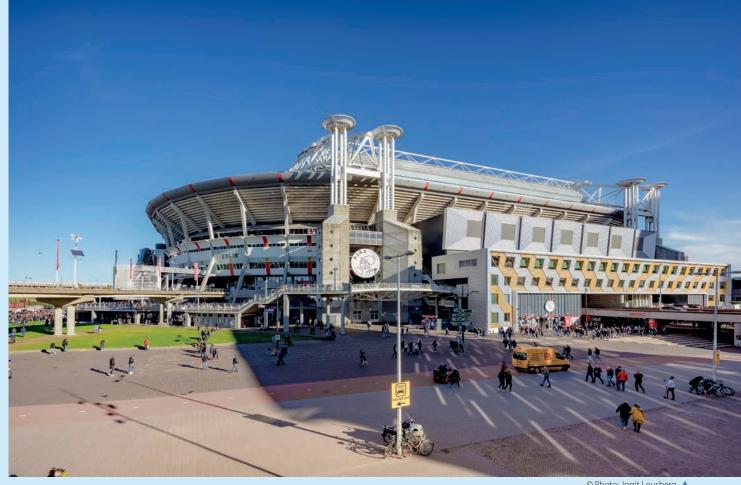
What would you like to do already now, in order to allow (more) people to enter the ArenA?

'Our idea is to set up a number of testing areas around the stadium providing quick tests where you can find out whether you are sick or not,' says Markerink. 'If you're completely healthy, you will be sent a barcode on your phone linked to your electronic ticket, and you'll be able to go in. That way we can create a safe environment inside the stadium in a very innovative way.'

### **Lessons for the future**

I also think it's important that we learn the lessons of this whole crisis so that we're better prepared for the next time something like this comes along,' says Van Raan. 'Which measures should we keep in place? It's important that the measures that are in place now, with all the restrictions and limitations that they imply, do not become permanent. Our goal for the future is actually for all our visitors to be able to assess their own health and decide for themselves whether or not they come to an event. The health check would then simply become a built-in part of our standard system of checks on our visitors.'

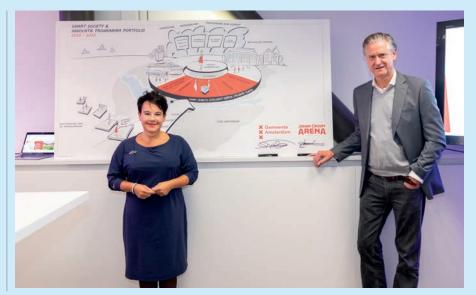




© Photo: Jorrit Lousberg 🔺

Markerink concludes: 'Five years ago, we set up our own innovation centre, the Amsterdam Innovation ArenA. That innovation lab has become an integral part of our DNA as an organisation.

Incidentally, we innovate in many other areas, not just health - also sustainability, managing flows of people and all kinds of data applications, you name it. Because if you fail to innovate, you'll be out of the running before you know it. I think sports innovation in the Netherlands more generally could do a lot more to make sure innovation is actually happening.'



▲ Alderman Sharon Dijksma and Henk Markerink - © Photo: Michiel Ton

# **Merit Clocquet, Fieldlab Events Programme Team:**

'The Fieldlab Events is an initiative of the entire sector, from business events to public events and from culture to sports. The programme was launched as a result of discussions that the events industry has held with various ministries. All participants share the same goal: to evaluate a range

of measures in an integrated way, with a view to identifying ways of relaxing current restrictions while staying within existing public health and safety parameters. I'm a member of the Programme Team on behalf of Sportinnovator. We promote innovation in all areas of sport and bring together knowledge from different areas, particularly now during the coronavirus pandemic. The priorities for Sportinnovator are safe and responsible indoor sport and ensuring that sporting events can remain open to the public.'

www.fieldlabevenementen.nl



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# **STARTERS**





# **INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS**

Orange Sports Forum is acknowledged by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency to conduct coaching programs for international business, called SIB Vouchers. SIB is short for Starters International Business. Therefore, OSF is allowed to coach and help Dutch SME companies to move into foreign markets.

The coaching program will be accompanied by an international business consultant from OSF, who is an expert in international sports business and who has a large international network.

Export allows entrepreneurs to effectively spread their risks. But, how do you start? What are your company's strengths? Which markets can offer opportunities and how can you successfully seize them? The international sports business consultant from OSF can help entrepreneurs to move into the right direction and look together at the opportunities abroad and work towards a concrete plan of action. Together we move along the following steps during the coaching program:



## 1. Motivation, ambition and competitive advantage

Together we identify the market opportunity's, based on the ambitions of the entrepreneur and the competitive advantage of their products and/or services.

### 2. Market information

The next step is to examine the market opportunity's and how well they match the competitive advantage of the entrepreneur.

### 3. Internal analysis

Finally, we identify what is needed in order to successfully enter the new market. This results in a concrete action plan for the entrepreneur.

The coaching program is valued at € 2,500 and this can be paid via a coaching voucher from the Netherlands Enterprise Agency. Therefore, this program is very applicable for Dutch entrepreneurs in sports related markets and offers OSF the opportunity to support and coach many starters in international business.



# **OSF's Partner for DHI Subsidy**

Entrepreneurs who have a good plan to start exporting or who want to invest abroad can receive an attractive subsidy from RVO as financial support. The subsidy is for entrepreneurs who want to export a product or service abroad. The subsidy amounts can be as high as € 200,000.

RVO has three types of subsidies to stimulate the export of Dutch companies.

- 1. Demonstration project
- 2. Feasibility study
- 3. Investment Preparation Study

Holland Partners helps entrepreneurs with maximum subsidy and minimum time effort for the entrepreneur. Members of OSF can make use of the cooperation with Holland Partners.



Holland Partners specialises in this export subsidy. All activities relating to the application for a subsidy can be carried out entirely by Holland Partners on the basis of a no cure no pay fee. If you have any questions or are interested, please contact OSF.

# PARTNERSHIPS DUTCH SPORT CLUSTERS

# Orange SportsForum<sup>©</sup>

Orange Sports Forum (OSF) is a platform for promotion of companies, organisations and institutes connected with Dutch sport. It incorporates both 'hardware' (infrastructure and premises) and 'software' (training, coaching, education and sports marketing). OSF maps out opportunities for Dutch companies and provides a platform that brings Dutch companies and institutions into contact with customers and potential partners from new markets. OSF now has a network of more than 300 companies and institutions.

https://www.orangesportsforum.com/

**Thema's:** Encouraging business internationally

300 members



The FGHS is the umbrella trade association of manufacturers, wholesalers, subsidiaries (of major foreign sports companies), importers and agents for sports equipment, sports shoes, sportswear, camping equipment and recreational products. The FGHS has over 140 members, who together account for the majority of the annual turnover in the sports sector.

https://fghs.nl/

**Thema's:** Promoting the interests of the sports sector

140 members



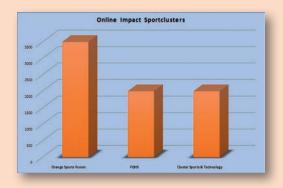
The Sports & Technology cluster is an open network that includes companies, knowledge institutes, sport FieldLabs and representatives of government. Participants from these four areas work together to build a vital sporting society and generate economic and social impact. They do this with technology and open innovation as the driving force, building on the strength of the Brainport region.

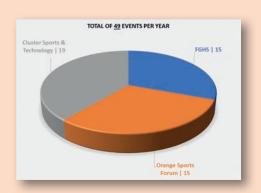
https://sportsandtechnology.com/

**Thema's:** Innovation and value creation for sports and vitality

150 members

# Total number of members: + 550 members





# **Our ambition**

Connecting networks and making the sports landscape more transparent



# WORLD2WIN (BEACH) VOLLEYBALL

In 2026, the first Olympic event in history will take place on the African continent: the Youth Olympic Games in Senegal. A special occasion that the Senegalese NOC, the Senegalese Volleyball Association, NOC \* NSF, the Dutch Volleyball Association, (Nevobo) Volley Vlaanderen and the French Volleyball Federation want to use to improve the sports infrastructure in Senegal and develop beach volleyball in this country. This collaboration has started since January 2020 and is being funded by the European Union.







## Organizational structure in order

The World2Win program focuses on a number of areas. An important area is to strengthen and develop the organization of the Senegalese Volleyball Federation. Van Gelder: "The Senegalese sport is actually run entirely by volunteers. This sport is less organized than in Western - Europe. Also in the Senegalese Volleyball Federation is ran by volunteers. From World2Win we will help the Federation and the local volleyball association to get their structure of the organization in order. For example, we look at topics such as governance and

strategy. Through workshops days we invite and challenge the federation to take small steps and use the limited funds as efficiently as possible."

### **Back to School project**

To make Senegalese youth enthusiastic about beach volleyball, the Back 2 School project was set up within the World2Win program. Babacar Mahktar Wade: "Senegal's volleyball internationals are being trained to give a workshop at their former primary school. As top athletes, they can inspire the children like no

other and make them enthusiastic about their own sport." Van Gelder says that it is essential for the development of the sport that more children in Senegal get in touch with beach volleyball: "Therefore, in addition to the Back 2 School project, the World2Win collaboration with organize school volleyball tournament. Through these kinds of initiatives, children can experience how much fun sports are and have fun together. In addition, Senegal hopes to increase the talent pool in this way in the run-up to Dakar 2026."









### **Technical (elite sport) development**

Also part of the World2Win program is the technical (elite sport& talent) development of beach volleyball in Senegal . The French and Belgian Volleyball Federation are mainly concerned with this. For example, the technical policy of the Senegalese Volleyball Federation is being scrutinized and an external coach will be flown in to improve the sports infrastructure. The current Senegalese national coaches receive education and are supported and supervised remotely through a mentorship program throughout the project period. The International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) is also involved in this part of the project.

### **Social impact**

With the World2Win program, the collaborating parties also want to use the power of sport to make a social impact in Senegal. They do so from the project Volleyball4Life, whose driving forced by the Dutch Volleyball Federation . This project aims is to raise awareness and is used for girls and boys to sports in the same equal way. In this program the Volleybal4Life - coaches engage in a dialogue with girls, boys and teachers on equal opportunities. This goes further than just exercising together. This Girls Empowerment project will also make an impact on other areas in the lives of young people.

Boubacar Alain Bodian , initiator of a public training center in Senegal, underlines the social importance of sport: " Children are left here alone with their own mobile phones and roam the streets . The training center here in Senegal is the only club where boys and girls play mixed

volleyball. Here they learn the sport technically, but we also try to give them other life lessons. "Through the project Volleybal4Life this initiative is supported.

### **Versatile program**

Van Gelder: "The World2Win program is versatile, but the various initiatives and projects reinforce each other and serve the same purpose. During the life of the program, it is intended to establish various partnerships with NGOs to increase the impact and legacy of the program. The European Union program will expire at the end of 2022, but there is the will and desire to extend this to 2026."

Word2Win is always open to new opportunities and collaboration. Are you also interested in participating in/collaborating with this program, or would you like more information after reading this article?

Feel free to visit the website

https://world2win.org

or send an email to

ingrid.vangelder@nocnsf.nl.

We look forward to further contact.





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# Christophe Charmoille

Chief Digital Officer LFP Increasing social reach and fan engagement on our main channels is a key objective in LFP digital strategy. With the help of Content Stadium, we have the opportunity to share our real-time data bundled through our channels in the form of high-quality graphics and video's. By integrating the sports data that we collect, we aim for a significant increase in the quality of our social media channels and exciting content for our fans. Content Stadium is an essential tool in our social media strategy.















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# Holland Sports & Industry • • •

# EUROPEAN PROJECT INNO4HEALTH

Sportbizz BV (co-founder of Orange Sports Forum) is a member of the EU project "ITEA 19008 INNO4HEALTH", which is partly funded by the Dutch ministry RVO and was launched 1 November 2020.

The consortium covers 39 organisations in 7 European countries and Canada.

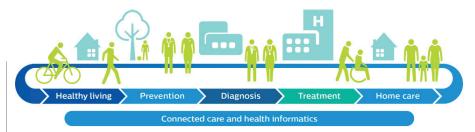
From the Netherlands, Philips Electronics Netherlands, PSV Eindhoven,

St. Anna Hospital, Maxima medical Centre, Datenna,

IMEC, TU/e and TNO Holst Centre are involved in INNO4HEALTH.

With the increase in our aging population, the number of surgeries performed is growing rapidly. At the same time, there is a growing risk of complications, as patients are becoming frailer and have more comorbidities. In top sports, tracking the condition of athletes is essential to guide physical preparation. However, if training programs are badly adapted to the physical and psychological condition then risks of injuries and other adverse health events like sudden cardiac arrest may occur affecting both elite as well as recreational athletes.

Currently, professionals (doctors and sport coaches) are asked to decide, without data at hand, whether a patient is sufficiently fit to undergo surgery or whether an athlete is optimally prepared to perform in the pitch. Office-based tests, questionnaires and interviews are the only source of information used to triage patients for treatment and elite athletes for sports participation. Monitoring patients and athletes in daily life provides tremendous potential to improve professional decision making, reach better outcome in clinical interventions and sport initiatives, as well as to generate positive financial impact for the healthcare budget and for stakeholders in sports.



Ultimately, continuous monitoring and remote assessment of the health condition of patients and athletes is key to support scalability of healthcare resources in times of critical demand such as during outbreaks of infectious diseases or to ensure safe participation in training and sport competition.

The ambition of INNO4HEALTH is to leverage on the growth potential of wearable electronics, smart body patches and home monitoring technology to create a platform on top of which data-driven and diversifiable solutions will be built to address the needs and challenges of the heterogeneous healthcare and sports market.

The innovation developed by INNO4HEALTH will represent an asset for Philips to expand its business portfolio to monitor patients outside the hospital walls. Philips is undergoing a

transformation to become a solution provider and leverage on new business models offering higher growth and profitability margins. The solution approach consists in offering bundle of products, software and services to customers and focusing on data analytics, and care coordination. This strategy will enable Philips to impact value-based healthcare and deliver end-to-end value targeting the quadruple aim: save costs, improve patients' outcome and staff safety, and ameliorate patient experience. INNO4HEALTH will allow Philips to expand the business offer beyond the core of patient monitoring in the hospital. While leveraging on the strength and reputation in critical care, and the drive to expand towards general care, Philips will deploy the INNO4HEALTH innovations as asset to offer patient monitoring solutions in the care-continuum.



The Dutch partners in INNO4HEALTH aim to stimulate innovation in continuous health and fitness monitoring to inform patients and their treating physician regarding readiness for surgery. In sports, the same technology will be used to continuously assess fitness and health to provide information to athletes and their coaches and to help them optimize performance during training and competitions. Ultimately, the project aims to help professionals manage remotely patients' health after hospital discharge and identify risks for adverse events in athletes before they occur.

INNO4HEALTH will be a pioneering project in the area of comprehensive data capturing and interpretation outside of the hospital walls and the sports training field. INNO4HRALTH aims to build a platform of monitoring solutions that include a generic set of components and technical capabilities such as algorithms and decision support systems that can be adapted flexibly to address both healthcare and sports applications with user groups that are either patients and doctors or athletes and performance coaches.

The Dutch INNO4HEALTH partners aim to demonstrate the value of continuous monitoring for:

- 1. Improving how patients prepare for surgery
- 2. Improving how athletes prepare for sport competition
- 3. (3) Helping professionals manage remotely patients' health after hospital discharge and identify risks for adverse events in athletes

The three-year project will start at the end of 2020 and will result in deliverables like smart garment for long-term monitoring of patients and athletes, an open platform for continuous monitoring and software applications for caregivers and sport coaches.



















# Holland Sports & Industry ● ●

# THE SHIMANO EXPERIENCE CENTER: EXPERIENCES AND MEMORIES AT THE HEART OF THE CYCLING AND TOURIST COMMUNITY

**Dutch cycling culture is renowned** worldwide. **Cycling** and **Netherlands are almost synonymous** with each other, as is Shimano and outdoor sports. It is no coincidence that the first Shimano Experience Center worldwide is in Valkenburg aan de Geul in South Limburg, the Netherlands. The Shimano **Experience Center** originated from the mission of the Japanese company: 'Closer to Nature, Closer to People' and is the place where we want to enable everyone to come into contact with cycling, fishing, and rowing, with which we have taken mobility and health as a central starting point.

Valkenburg aan de Geul is the intersection of Belgium, Germany, and the Netherlands, where Shimano reaches cyclists in a large cycling and tourist community. Every year some 70,000 cyclists ride racing bikes from Valkenburg on their laps in the South Limburg hills or they trek towards the German mountains, the Eifel, or they make a long loop through the Belgian Ardennes. This makes the Shimano Experience Center the starting point for many great memories and experiences on the bike. But it is not only cyclists on a racing bike who find South Limburg, Maastricht, Valkenburg, and the Shimano Experience Center. Every year, Limburg is visited by approximately 26 million day-trippers. Many of them take their city bikes, MTBs, trekking or comfort bikes, or even their e-bikes with them. They stay in the Limburg ambiance at campsites, hotels, bungalow parks, or holiday homes and enjoy the Burgundian life in the South while driving their own laps to the most beautiful places in the green rolling hills.



The Shimano Experience Center is "Home of Cycling for all Cyclists, but it is not only Shimano's catalog where all products are displayed, it is above all Shimano's experience and knowledge center and thus has an important strategic value in the market. Every visitor, consumer, or business customer can experience Shimano







products in the Shimano Experience Center by touching, hearing, feeling, and seeing them. By being able to use the products, one experiences the ease of use, the ergonomics, the innovations, and the quality of the products. Shimano not only creates high-quality technology for cycling, fishing, and rowing but also creates beautiful memories and fulfills people's passions.

Shimano went further in developing the Shimano Experience Center than anyone else in the industry. With the arrival of the Shimano Event Center, which is in the same complex and has more than 600 square meters of space, every business meeting receives that passion, experience, and knowledge of sports and Shimano. The dedicated event management team makes every symposium, business

VIEWING EVENT WELKOM #SAMENWINNEN

meeting, or product launch a success from start to finish, with nearly 2,000 square meters of outdoor space available. The presence of showers, changing rooms, and storage systems make the possibilities at the Shimano Experience Center almost limitless. In this way, the connection can be created between a business and sports activity under professional guidance and knowledge transfer, new passions and wonderful experiences and memories between those worlds arise.

To create memories and fill passions, Shimano has developed services that do not necessarily belong to Shimano's core business as such but only to the core business of the Shimano Experience Center. It is the B2C strategy aimed at consumers, self-employed professionals, organizations, and companies. The Shimano Experience Center's high-end bike rental service lets everyone experience what it's like to ride with the equipment of a professional. Such a service has also been developed for fishing. Cycling is the only professional sport in the world where consumers can ride on the same equipment as the professional men and women in the Tour de France or in the Giro Rosa. Our MTBs ensure that you cross, climb and descend on World Cup-level bikes through the Limburg forests.

The Shimano Experience Center also has a place for those who are slightly less sporty. A few years ago, Shimano introduced STEPS the electric motor for all types of bicycles. The consumer or customer can test the e-bikes equipped with the STEPS motors and get an independent advice for the type of motor/ bike that fits the consumer like recreation or commuting. Shimano also has new innovations in this segmentation, because, with the e-MTB and e-Gravel motors from STEPS, less sporty and trained men or women can ride off-road routes with uphill's and downhill's without too much effort and thus also be very sporty on an e-bike and explore new grounds. Opening this

new target group of men and women who can experience what it is like to climb steep off-road hills and experience the freedom and pleasure of off-road cycling is a special experience for them. It is something they could never achieve to do on a bike years ago. With the powerful STEPS motor, you can participate again on all terrain.

The Shimano Experience Center works with an expert permanent staff and works together with a wide range of professional self-employed people with extensive knowledge of sports, cycling and fishing, technology, infrastructure, innovation, mobility, and health. The Shimano Experience Center is the experience and knowledge center at the crossroads of Germany, Belgium, and the Netherlands where worlds come together, ideas arise, and become reality. Where people are active, memories are born, and passions are discovered or given new dimensions. With the development of services, the transfer of knowledge, and the bringing together of the business and sports world, Shimano is committed to the beating heart of its mission statement. Closer to Nature, Closer to People.



If you are interested in visiting the Shimano Experience Center or if you want to know what the possibilities are for your organization, company or if you see other business opportunities, please contact Danny Nelissen via danny.nelissen@shimano-eu.com

Presentation yearbook Holland Sports & Industry 2019-2020 at CM.com

OSF Orange Sports Forum

Uitreiking jaarboek Holland Sports & Industry bij CM.com in Breda. Mocht u geïnteresseerd zijn in meer informatie of een exemplaar, neem dan contact op met OSF. Zie hieronder een korte video-impressie van de uitreikina.



**OSF Meeting about Doing Sports Business** 

in the USA, hosted by the

**U.S. Embassy in** 

the Netherlands

December 2019



sul-Generaal in Miami, Mevr. Ruth nerink. OSF heeft veel enthousiaste



committeren aan een 3-jarig zakelijk dhr. Pete Hoekstra en de Nederlandse zullen we vervolgens een strategische overheid. Dit biedt bedriiven een unieke zullen worden middels een meerjarig. Nederlandse bedrijven structureel te

• February 2020

**Participating in the factfinding mission** Sports & Infrastructure LA2028', organised by FME, NBSO LA and the consulate general in San Francisco



**July 2020** 

**July 2019** 





Yesterday, @Brainport\_ehv and @OrSportsForum hosted the 1st edition of the Brainport China Network Lunch at @SXEmdhoven. The event was a great way to connect people and their networks, to discuss relevant topics and to strengthen the relationship between key



Orange **Sports Forum®** 

**Incoming business delegation from Chongqing (China)** 

SX SX Eindhoven

Mooi business nieuws! Het Chinese bedrijf All Time Media sluit zich aan bij #SX, waarmee een brug wordt gebouwd naar nieuwe samenwerkingen in Azië. Dank



11:48 a.m. - 8 jan. 2020 - Twitter for iPh

3 Retweets 21 Vind-ik-leuks

January 2020

**Sports Trade Mission to Qatar** 

Orange Sports Forum

We look back at a successful sports business trip to Qatar with12 Dutch sports related companies. Our sincere gratitude to all the stakeholders in Qatar and to the Dutch embassy for the great cooperation and organization! See the video via:

March 2020

**Participation CIFTIS** (China International Fair for Trade in Services)



September 2020

# **OVERVIEW OSF EVENTS**

8

OSF Meeting at the Olympic Training Centre Papendal about Tokyo2020

Thank you Jochem Schellens (Papendal), Anneke van Zanen-Nieberg (NOC\*NSF) and Hans Verhoeven (MTD pure water) for sharing your experiences and challenges transacte Tables 2020.

Furthermore, Orange Sports Forum (John van de Laar, Camil Smeufders, Arun Swami Persaud & Rick Sleegers) talked about several running projects, events and the upcoming activities from OSF.

Jertalina wasanawa



September 2020



Sports eForums: 'Introducing the South Florida

Ruth Emmerink ©

Sport Connects!

Our first e-Forum marked the soft launch of the PPP 'Sports, Innovation & Vitality' in the US.

Looking forward to connecting the NL & US sports sectors on innovation, business opportunities and social impact. @OrSportsForum

Changing the game together



**Sports Landscape**'

Institution in the Control of Con

**October 2020** 

Sports eForums: Sports eForums; Introducing the Bradenton Sports Landscape







September 2020



Thank you. Danny Nelissen for hosting this event and Peter Rood. Tim Mullens MSc., Maarten Roldrinet. Menno Smoelen. Colin Otten, Feter Van Bilsen, Masaki Setoguchi, John E., Nill Robalcake, Edwin Michori, Dunillel Edm., <u>Will Marjolin</u> de Rooy <u>W.</u> Camil Smeudders & Rick Sleegen; for making this possible!

Vertalling weergeven

Orange Sports Forum
384 volgers
1 innd - Sewerkt - 

O



October 2020



Vesterday, the Shimano Experience Center hosted a successful meeting about cycling and innovation in sinse of COVID-191 Together with 15 OSF members, we discussed and bisnintered about the impact and opportunities for innovations in cycling, especially in times of a pandemic. Also, Durry Nelissen gave an insight in the latest developments of cycling and the role of the Shimano Experience Center, located in Valkerburg.





1st one was on doing business in the State of Qatar

We look forward to more successful webinars aimed at
strengthening bilateral sports cooperation



November 2020



Presentation Market Report on Sports related Business
Opportunities in Spain



OSF heeft in opdracht van RVO een Kanservapport Sport Spanje opgesteld. Hierin staan diverse sport gerelateerde marktkansen beschreven, alsmede enkele suggesties voor vervolgstappen. Het rapport wordt op 25 november om 15:00 uur gepresenteerd tijdens een webinar met sprekers als RVO, NBSO in Barcelona, OSF en het Cruyff institute uit Pascelona.

Interesse Kansenrapport Sport

November 2020

November 2020

# THE KEY FOR SUCCESS FOR

# POST COVID-19 EVENTS IS:

# SUSTAINABILITY

MTD provides temporary drinking water and wastewater infrastructures for national and international projects, such as KLM Open, Invictus Games, Volvo Ocean Race, UEFA and FIFA Championships and Olympic Games. MTD provides the entire supply chain from water buffering to drinking and wastewater treatment for reuse on site.



Whether it is a local, national or international event, any event needs pure drinking water and a proper wastewater infrastructure. Being a pioneer in this business, MTD brings almost 35 years of experience to your project. From its head office in Tilburg, The Netherlands, MTD offers a service on a global scale and is supported by local offices in Europe, Middle East, Americas and Asia.

Today, MTD is the global market leader in temporary water infrastructure and, each year, builds more than 1500 temporary water installations in dozens of countries.

# **Sustainability challenges**

Since March 2020 the world of events has changed. The COVOD-19 virus has affected our loved industry worldwide. All events are cancelled, postponed or some of them held behind closed doors. Today, the event sector is preparing themselves for the post-COVID-19 period, based on new offerings and new business models for their event customers. MTD is convinced that future events can only attract money through sponsors, visitors and municipalities if they offer a "sustainable" and more circular event.

Being a market leader, MTD is at the forefront when it comes to meet new sustainability challenges, particularly when establishing new "circular processes". MTD already reuses and recycles all of its equipment and material, but the MTD Research & Development team is looking further for new challenges.

The MTD sustainability initiatives are:

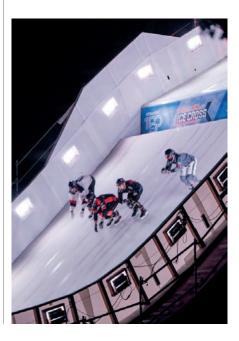
## 1. Treat wastewater:

The focus is processing wastewater on location, which saves several times a lot of transport, CO2 emissions and costs. Wastewater is therefore treated and reused as flushing water for toilets, irrigation water or discharged as wastewater.

# 2. Online and real-time Smart Management System (SMS):

MTD focusses on digital, online and real-time water management monitoring such as, flow, temperature and leak detection. Secondly, real-time water quality monitoring to secure the quality of drinking water for events. MTD measures the parameters: pH, free chlorine, conductivity, turbidity and dissolved oxygen. Third, digitally management of all venue reports

such as "service level agreement" reports and the daily reports. All three levels of monitoring are combined in one software package, the MTD SMS





### 3. Reduce single-use-plastic:

Plastic bottles and waste are a growing problem worldwide. More than 1 million plastic bottles are sold per minute worldwide. Visitors of today are aware of this problem and many travel with their reusable bottle in their backpack. Therefore, MTD offers a great variety on different bottle refill stations for events, from single ones, to chilled ones and sparkling water bars for backstage and hospitality areas. All bottle refill stations can be completely branded to the corporate identity of the sustainability sponsor or customer.

### 4. Save drinking water:

All MTD equipment is designed to save drinking water with start/stop/sensor buttons and the flushing lines against legionella bacteria are installed with temperature valves. In case possible, MTD reuses other available water resources like rainwater harvesting, A/C condense water, or surface water to save drinking water intake.

### 5. Reuse equipment:

More customers are buying products, manufacturers build new products, customers are buying more new products; this circle is extreme toxic for the whole world. Every new product manufactured needs raw materials and energy to build and creates more waste. The Organizing Committees should change outsourcing commodities per event and change to multiple event contracts with commodity suppliers to reduce costs, reduce waste, reduce carbon footprint, and to increase quality and a circular economy.

### **Leaving drinking water available for others**

The expectation is that in 2030 around 50% of the world population lives in regions with a shortage of water. With the above mentioned "MTD sustainability initiatives" it is possible to reduce 50% of the normal mains drinking water intake for events. That leaves millions of drinking water available for others who really do need it.





## **Water als service**

Reliable service is of paramount importance. The worldwide MTD customer base must be served in the same uniform high-quality way with "water as a service". To fulfil that, MTD has developed a range of globally certified equipment and services. MTD is a service company and unburdens the customer with their "water as a service" approach and quarantees:

- Delivery and save of safe drinking water;
- · Supplying on-time and within budget;
- Contingency planning by having last minute solutions available in case of challenges;
- Measuring real-time water quality and water management in formation;
- · Adding value by design and engineering;
- Reuse, Reduce and Recycle wastewater.

Furthermore, dedicated MTD staff can be hired as an in-house expert by a local organising committee. MTD field engineers are able to create a successful event through collaboration with other, often local, suppliers and organizers. MTD is used to work under high pressure, in an international environment and with tight schedules.

MTD has the knowledge, the experience and attitude to help you with your next event.







# **GETTING INTO SPORTS LAW:**

# MAKING LIFE AS EASY

# AS POSSIBLE FOR ATHLETES

The Netherlands is a real sporting nation. The performance standard of both our professional and amateur athletes is high, with a relatively high number of sportspeople with top-level ambitions. The Dutch sports sector is besides pioneering in the field of innovation, in particular thanks to technological breakthroughs in materials, nutrition and information. In short: the sports sector is on the up!

"Our Sports Law practice follows the developments closely," explains Jaimy Vanenburg, attorney at law at Holla Advocaten. "It is striking to see how well sports and entrepreneurship go together. Sport is so important to society that it has an overarching effect within a company. It incites positivism and inspiration. Even people who are less in touch with sports are inspired by top athletes. That has to do with their mentality. They need a certain mindset to achieve something and as soon as they propagate it, it hits."

Jaimy Vanenburg is specialized in Sports Law. This area of expertise fits perfectly with the legal services provided by Holla Advocaten, because of the similarities between sports and organizations. Holla understands that sport involves more than rules alone. The emotions experienced and the dynamic nature of the world of sport mean that a different approach needs to be adopted to issues involving sports law. "Our aim is



to make life as easy as possible for clubs, athletes, associations, sponsors and players' agents – at an amateur and professional level – by taking care of legal aspects for them, which frees up valuable time for them to focus on what really matters: sport itself," says Jaimy. "The (International) Sports Law expertise at Holla Advocaten consists of experienced lawyers who all specialize in a particular area of law. However, they all have one thing in common: an affinity for sport," explains Jaimy. "We map out the associated legal risks in all kinds of sports related issues. This might come in the form of advice, but our specialists can also assist in legal proceedings."

Within the (International) Sports Law practice, legal matters can arise across quite diverse areas, such as employment law (for example labour disputes, contract negotiations and transfer agreements), intellectual property law (such as image rights and merchandising), corporate







law (for example sponsorship agreements, M&A and statutes), liability law (such as personal injuries), property law (like rental agreements), tax law, disciplinary law (such as codes of conduct, regulations from (international) federations, doping and match-fixing) or (international) arbitration (for example the Court of Arbitration for Sport).

Holla Advocaten has clients within football, (table) tennis, cycling, swimming, archery, equestrian, athletics and more, but also within e-sports (such as Team Liquid). "We have (football) clubs, (football) players, national federations, (Paralympic) athletes and intermediaries as clients," says Jaimy. "Besides, we have been the legal partner of La Vuelta Holanda 2020 (which unfortunately couldn't take place due to COVID-19)".





# About Holla Advocaten

Holla Advocaten belongs to the top 25 of Dutch law-firms. With a wide spectrum of specialisms, we focus on the private and (semi-) public sector. Holla forms a strategic partnership with the British law firm TLT LLP. Located in ten offices in the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and abroad, Holla and TLT offer clients seamless cross-border legal services.

www.holla.eu



# **Jaimy Vanenburg**

Jaimy Vanenburg is attorney at law at Holla Advocaten. She is also adhoc clerk at the Court of Arbitration for Sport, member of the Appeal Committee of the Instituut Sportrechtspraak and member of the Code of Conduct Committee of Pro Agent.



# **Reinoud van Oeijen**

Reinoud van Oeijen is partner at Holla Advocaten. His main areas of expertise are restructuring & insolvency, banking & finance, corporate law and sports law.



# OFFER THE BEST FAN EXPERIENCE: FORMULA 1 HEINEKEN DUTCH GRAND PRIX

As official event supporter of the Formula 1 Heineken Dutch Grand Prix, CM.com teamed up with the Dutch Grand Prix to provide the best customer experience with several products and services.

Imre van Leeuwen, Director at Dutch Grand Prix: "We were looking for more than a specialized ticketing partner. A partner that could help us optimize our ticketing process and create a superior fan experience. CM.com offers us both, which makes our partnership so successful".

Unfortunately, the Dutch Grand Prix had to be postponed because of the COVID-19 outbreak. In this article is described how CM.com contributed to the success in the run-up to the event and how the products of CM.com enabled the organization to communicate easily with the fans that already bought tickets for the postponed race.

# **Optimized ticket sales**

To optimize the ticketing process of the Dutch Grand Prix, a preregistration for tickets was set up. The preregistration was much needed as the demand was greater than the supply. To achieve the best customer experience to the customers of the Dutch Grand Prix, the Mobile Marketing Cloud was used as well. In the Customer Data Platform all customer data of the Dutch Grand Prix is stored which is needed to provide the best customer experience.

# **Mobile Marketing Cloud**

The Mobile Marketing Cloud is a 'mobile first' omnichannel customer engagement platform that connects businesses to customers via mobile phone. It is the only marketing platform in the world that comprises all mobile messaging channels, including WhatsApp, Apple Business Chat and RCS. With the Mobile Marketing Cloud, CM.com has broaden its services with SaaS and thus anticipates the strongly increasing demand of businesses for mobile commerce solutions. The beating heart of the Mobile Marketing Cloud, is the Customer Data Platform (CDP).





# Preregistration process to prevent fraudulent applications

The preregistration data was also directly registered in the CDP. There, it was filtered with several authentication steps to prevent fraudulent applications. This was an important wish of the Dutch Grand Prix: preventing that tickets ended up on the black market for up to three times the original price which would have caused fans to miss out on tickets. We are happy that we have granted this wish, as more than 11% of the preregistration requests were blocked because they were fraudulent.

Dutch Grand Prix used the CDP from the start. This way, it now holds over ten million data points that are aggregated into over 300,000 customer profiles. That sounds like a lot of data to handle. But it is not a problem with the extensive segmentation options, which looks at similarities between profiles. A clever way to set up highly personal marketing campaigns. For example, to decide who you want to send which email. The Dutch Grand Prix used the Email Campaigns tool to easily design, automate and analyze emails, and because all profiles

were segmented, the fan received relevant information.

This enabled them to send automatically triggered emails based on certain actions of fans or certain time frames. For example, an email was automatically sent when the preregistration for tickets ended and when the ticket sales started.

## **The Race Engineer**

To aid fans in every step of their journey CM.com created the technology behind the Race Engineer especially for the Dutch Grand Prix. This specific chatbot runs on WhatsApp.

The Race Engineer was specifically aimed at answering questions about travelling to and from the event, like:

- How can I reach the Dutch Grand Prix?
- What means of transportation is suggested?
- What is the fastest way out of the circuit?



used to answer frequently asked questions.

If the bot could not answer a question,
CM.com's Customer Contact tooling made it

possible to hand over the conversation to a human customer care agent. Customer Contact is a platform from where all conversations can be managed: whether they started via a bot or a messaging channel like WhatsApp. This allows customer care agents to easily respond to all incoming messages and hand over conversations to the right teams without losing track of the conversation.

All conversations with the chatbot were automatically stored in the CDP, to enrich the customer profiles. This enables marketers to easily segment customers by filtering on certain demographics or actions, like 'everyone who started a conversation with the Race Engineer' and send them targeted information.

# **Dutch Grand Prix in 2020 and beyond**

Unfortunately, the Dutch Grand Prix had to be postponed. But bundling all data and customer profiles enabled the Dutch Grand Prix to communicate easily with the fans that already bought tickets for the 2020 race. Once it is possible to organize the Dutch Grand Prix, everybody will be informed timely and in a personal way. We are all looking forward to the Dutch Grand Prix!

Curious how the tooling we used for the Dutch Grand Prix can help your sport organization in offering the best fan experience?

Reach out to us!
You can find us on www.cm.com







# CM.com primary partner of CM.com Circuit Zandvoort



Together with CM.com Circuit Zandvoort, CM.com tackles the digital transition of the iconic dune circuit with smart mobile communication and payment solutions that ensure an optimal fan experience throughout the visitor's customer journey. The partnership results from the successful cooperation CM.com has with the Formula 1 Heineken Dutch Grand Prix.

# Optimize the fan experience with Conversational Commerce

Both partners from Dutch soil share an equal vision on the future of sports and leisure events where the need for innovation is more relevant than ever. The demand for smart digital solutions in the sports and events sector has been accelerated by COVID-19. CM.com's technology provides a true VIP experience for fans. Everything to raise the customer experience to the highest possible level.





# Delivering a local touch with a global reach

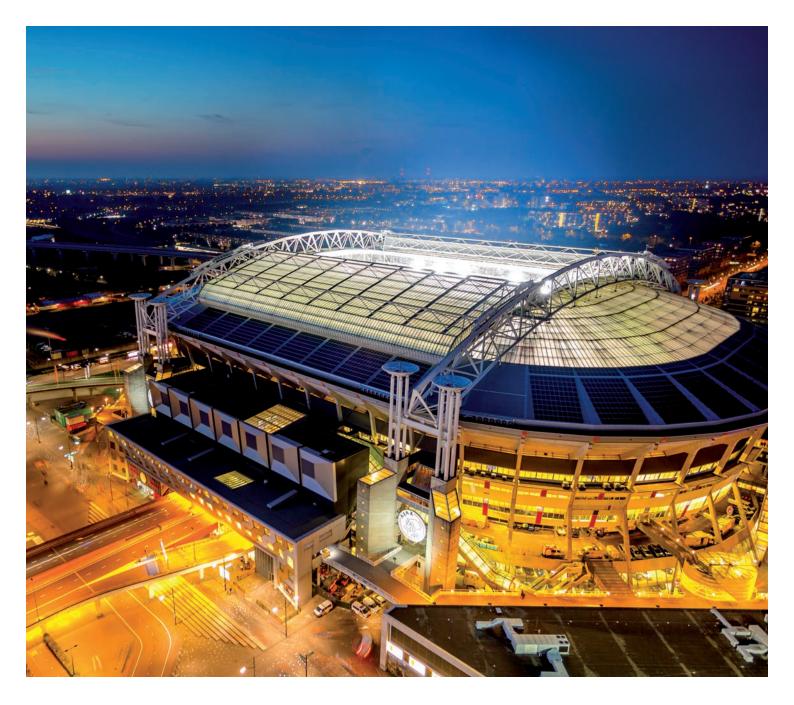
Whether you're an entrepreneur looking to get started, an innovative, fast-growing company, or an established company looking to an exit, we understand what is important to you and can help you navigate your challenges — no matter the size and stage of your business. You gain access to KPMG's global resources through a single point of contact — a trusted adviser to your company. It's a local touch with a global reach.

# Contact us

Hans Peter van der Horst International Business +31206567164 VanderHorst.Hans-Peter@kpmg.nl.



kpmg.com/nl



# SHAPING THE STADIUMS OF TOMORROW TODAY

As the first truely multifunctional stadium in Europe, Johan Cruijff ArenA, formerly known as Amsterdam ArenA, has been an inspiration to many. Unforgettable AFC Ajax and Dutch national teammatches, fabulous concerts and a well developed ArenA area all contributed to the profitability of the stadium.

Over the years we have successfully advised on FIFA World Cup stadiums in Brazil and Qatar and UEFA

Euro stadiums in Poland and Ukraine to name a few. Today we are shaping the future of stadiums by using our venue as a fieldlab for new fan experience, mobility, safety & security, sustainability and facility management services.

Secure your sustainable future and profit from our experience? Use our stadium hospitality for your inspiring event? Contact us!

