



2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™

Arena-2018 gears up for major work

Moscow/Baar, 11 October 2012 – A working meeting took place in Moscow on 10 October 2012 between management of the Russia 2018 Local Organising Committee, Arena-2018 and Charles R. Botta, FIFA's leading consultant on stadium construction and design.

FIFA.com: <http://www.fifa.com/worldcup/russia2018/news/newsid=1783138/index.html?cid=rssfeed&att=>)

The meeting focused on mapping out collaboration between Arena-2018 and the FIFA technical group responsible for monitoring timetables and schedules for the design, construction and reconstruction of stadiums for the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™, as well as for monitoring compliance with FIFA requirements.

At the meeting, representatives from Arena-2018 presented their most up-to-date information on the design and construction of stadiums for the FIFA World Cup. Those attending discussed the monitoring of stadium preparations ahead of the tournament.

"Arranging accountability and communication between all sides is a key issue in our work because, during the design and construction process, the Host Cities will be asking a huge number of questions, and it's very important for us to speak the same language," explained Botta. "I'd like to say that I was really impressed with the outcome of the meeting. The Russia 2018 Local Organising Committee and Arena-2018 have made excellent preparations and started this important work."

In December 2012, representatives and consultants from Arena-2018, along with experts from FIFA's technical group, will be paying inspection visits to the tournament's Host Cities. And the following month, January 2013, they will present their first joint report to FIFA.

"We already have things we can present to FIFA. Five of the stadiums for the tournament are already under construction: Spartak Moscow's arena and the stadiums in Sochi, Kazan, Saransk and St Petersburg," said Botta following the meeting. "In terms of the objectives facing all the people involved in the process, at this stage I would say it's about the Host Cities accepting Arena-2018 as their partner in getting the stadiums ready for the tournament."

./2



Page 2

"Russia, like any country, has its own construction assessments and procedures," he continued. "The lines of communication need to be put in place with the cities, and then it will be easier to make sure that the interests of all sides are taken into account, while observing FIFA's timetables and requirements. That's how it was in Germany and in South Africa, that's how we're working at the moment in Brazil, and I'm sure that we'll also be able to do the same in Russia."

Arena-2018 was founded by the Russia 2018 LOC in April 2012. The organisation is responsible for monitoring the design, construction and rebuilding of the stadiums and ensure that FIFA requirements are met.