



Media Release
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New Stadium for Sports Capital of Australia

Melbourne, the city known as the sports capital of Australia is to get another new stadium to add to its list of impressive sports infrastructure. Melbourne is already the only city in the world with three retractable roof stadiums.

The new 20,000 seat stadium will be built in the Olympic Park precinct and will be used for rugby and soccer and will be a world-class event and administration complex. It will include a sports campus, an elite training centre and accommodation for a number of sporting organisations.

The stadium will be built at a cost of AU\$190 million and the Victorian Government will contribute AU\$149 million.

Sandra Chipchase, CEO, Melbourne Convention + Visitors Bureau, said that no city in the world can boast world-class sporting infrastructure like Melbourne, so close to the city.

"Our stadiums are not only used for major sporting events, but also provide interesting and unique venues for major business events and incentives. International incentive groups can experience the thrill of walking into the centre of the Melbourne Cricket Ground, where many countries have competed in historic cricket tests. Other groups can experience the excitement of Australian Rules Football, a true 'Aussie' experience that began in Melbourne in 1896," Ms Chipchase said.

Competitors can also host game days, team building events and even awards dinners in a setting that rewards high achievers every weekend.

At the heart of the design of the new stadium is a Bioframe, a lightweight steel design based on the inherent structural efficiencies of the dome. The geodesic dome roof will fully cover the seating area and uses 50 percent less steel than a typical stadium roof. The structure is then skinned in a triangular panelised façade of glass, metal and louvers, allowing maximum sunlight and ventilation.

The new stadium is expected to be completed by 2009.

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