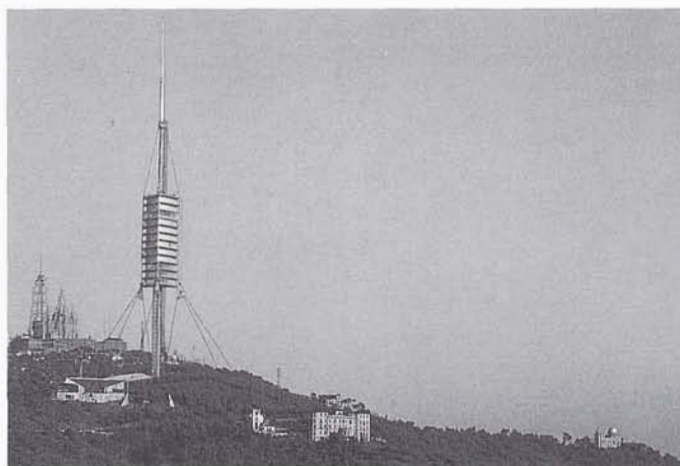


## RTO'92



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TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWER OF COLLSEROLA BY NORMAN FOSTER

THE MISSION OF RÀDIO-TELEVISIÓ OLÍMPICA (RTO'92) AS THE HOST BROADCASTING ORGANISM OF THE GAMES IS TO ORGANISE AND GUARANTEE INTERNATIONAL RADIO AND TELEVISION COVERAGE, CONTEMPLATING FOR THE FIRST TIME THE PRODUCTION OF LIVE IMAGES OF ALL THE OLYMPIC SPORTS.

MANUEL ROMERO RTO'92 DIRECTION

**R**àdio Televisió Olímpica, or RTO'92, was set up in January 1989 as an autonomous organism of the Comitè Olímpic Organitzador dels Jocs de Barcelona'92 (COOB'92).

As the host broadcasting organism of the 1992 Olympic Games, RTO'92's chief responsibility is to organise and guarantee international radio and television coverage of the Games. For the first time in Olympic history, this coverage contemplates the production of live images of all the Olympic sports. This

will mean more than two thousand hours of live coverage, a record in this type of event.

RTO'92's chief function, then, is the production of what is called the "international television signal". Subsequently, it will be responsible for sending the international signal from each of the Olympic sites to the Centre Internacional de Ràdio i Televisió (CIRTV; in English, IBC, International Broadcasting Centre) and for its assignation and relaying, via satellite, around the world). RTO'92 will also have to supply the ne-

cessary means and services to authorized radio-broadcasters for their unilateral requirements, as well as providing access to the services and provisions that need third-party organisations or companies.

In addition, RTO'92 will be responsible for offering authorized radio-broadcasters all the detailed information on the Games and principal events connected with the Olympics, both before and during the course of the Games.

In order to fulfil these functions, RTO'92 has, under a general management,

been divided into seven departments: Information, Production, Technical, Booking, Logistics, Administration and Personnel.

The Information Department covers the informative necessities of radio-broadcasters with rights and devotes special attention to their requirements as regards unilateral coverage. This department will therefore collect, select and distribute information to radio-broadcasters with rights and, during the Games, will set up the necessary channels so that complete and accurate information reaches the commentary positions at each and every one of the sites as well as the offices the radio-broadcasters with rights have at the IBC. Finally, the Information Department is also responsible for the RTV Games Documentation and Archive Project, which includes a data bank and an archive of audio-visual, graphic and written material, and for co-ordinating the exchange of material between radiobroadcasters holding rights.

As regards the Production Department, its basic assignment is to "produce" the international video and audio signal generated at the different sites. With this in mind, the department designs a Production Plan, which is presented to the radio-broadcasters with rights. The Production Plan details the audiovisual coverage at the different sites, so as to offer the best possible pictures and sound of all the competitions. All this is done with the collaboration of the European Radiodiffusion Union, Spanish Television (TVE) and the Catalan Radio and Television Corporation (CCRTV), who as well as participating in the plans for the coverage of the Games will be in charge of providing mobile units and personnel. The department also co-ordinates the requirements of the authorized radio-broadcasters on a technical level, as for example in planning for their respective mobile units, and others. Finally, it complements the production of the international signal with the graphic design, headings, captions and other details that complete the final television picture.

The Technical Department is in charge of providing the technical means and



TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWER OF MONTJUÏC  
BY SANTIAGO CALATRAVA

the necessary technical operating personnel to allow the production of the television signal, all in keeping with the relevant technical regulations and the previously established artistic requirements. The images filmed by the cameras on these immense sets offered by the sites are carefully selected using advanced technical apparatus operated by highly specialized personnel. These signals are transmitted to the IBC as what are called "international and unilateral signals" which are then passed on to those radio-broadcasters holding rights. These, after personalizing and treating the signals, produce their own programmes which they transmit to their respective areas using the latest technological means, such as the satellites that make communication between continents possible. This will allow three thousand, five hundred

million people all over the world to watch the Barcelona Olympic Games. In brief, the functions of the other RTO'92 departments are as follows: Operations is responsible for the whole organisational set-up for RTO'92's various duties; Booking is in charge of permitting the radio-broadcasters with rights the realization of their own personalized coverage as regards the production of the respective unilateral signal; the Logistics Department's functions include accommodation, transport, accreditation, storage, catering, travel, purchases, messenger service and general maintenance; Administration draws up and controls RTO'92's annual budgets, bills services and takes care of the accounts in general; Personnel selects the people that make up the RTO'92 workforce (in collaboration with the Human Resources Division of the COOB'92), co-ordinates the Training Plan and handles staff relations.

Finally, a word about the IBC, which occupies a number of the pavilions of the Fira de Barcelona, on Montjuïc. This is the nerve centre for radio and television operations, covering a total of 34,000 square metres.

As we have seen, the signals from all the sites arrive at the IBC, are monitored and equalized to guarantee their final quality, are recorded, then distributed and sent to an archive which will contain all the images produced of all the sports, available to the radio-broadcasters with rights, for editing their programmes or producing the daily summaries.

In this way, an invaluable audio-visual report of the Barcelona'92 Olympic Games will be created, and during the operative stage these images will be seen on the television screens of almost the whole world. For the last two and a half years, a host of highly qualified professionals have been enthusiastically working to make all this possible. At the moment they number just over a hundred, but during the operative stage of the Games they will exceed three thousand. This is the small army of peace and sport, with the most advanced technology available today, gathered under the initials RTO'92. ■





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