



NATIONAL STADIUM ABU DHABI , UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

The National Stadium is the centrepiece of a new sporting complex known as the Sports Hub. The complex forms part of the Capital District Masterplan to the East of the main Abu Dhabi Island. The main intended use of the stadium is hosting sporting events (primarily football and rugby), with a maximum seating capacity of 65,000 spectators. Additionally, the stadium will be used for hosting a variety of events such as concerts and exhibitions.

From a crowd flow point of view the stadium design can be considered as two linked elements, namely the stadium itself and the podium. The stadium itself comprises a natural grass pitch, a seating bowl consisting of three main tiers and a movable roof. The podium forms the external public concourse directly around the stadium. It provides pedestrian access from street level to the stadium entrances and circulation space around the stadium perimeter.

The aim of this study was to assess whether the design of the venue is

operable given the anticipated visitor numbers. The design was assessed against all its potential uses, to ensure that it is capable of operating safely and comfortably in all foreseeable modes. From a crowd flow perspective, this involves ensuring that the venue has adequate capacity to accommodate expected crowd flows at agreed target densities.

The study included a review by Buro Happold of the two people movement reports produced by Arup. This review considered the design approach adopted, identified the safety and comfort outcomes of the proposed design, and highlighted where further crowd movement assessment would be of most benefit.

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