

# THE AVENG GROUP

## Media Release

Johannesburg, 3 March

### THE AVENG GROUP CELEBRATES THE HANDOVER OF SOCCER CITY

Leading infrastructure organisation, The Aveng Group, its subsidiary Grinaker-LTA and international construction partners, today celebrate 100 hundred days before the kick off of the 2010 FIFA World Cup tournament with the official handover of fully completed Soccer City Stadium to the Mayor of Johannesburg.

Commenting ahead of the official handover ceremony, The Aveng Group's CEO Roger Jardine said; *"This is an incredibly exciting moment for The Aveng Group, as we present a piece of African pride to the Mayor of Johannesburg. We are ready for the World Cup and cannot wait for the games to begin so that we can showcase African ingenuity in design and our expertise in construction and engineering to the rest of the world. I have no doubt that we will host a world class event"*

The iconic stadium took almost 10 million hours to construct and boasts more than 1m "disabling injury free man hours" – a world class achievement that epitomises Aveng and its partners' unrelenting focus on safety.

*"Like an African calabash that securely stores food and drink, this calabash-inspired stadium will securely hold almost 90,000 fans who will witness the opening game of the 2010 FIFA World Cup,"* added Roger Jardine.

The ground on which Soccer City was built has a deep historical connection with South Africans. It was here that the predecessor to Soccer City saw Bafana Bafana qualify for their first ever World Cup and where a mass rally was held to celebrate the release of Nelson Mandela in 1990. *"We hope that this will be the venue where our boys, Bafana Bafana, will do us proud in the 2010 World Cup Tournament,"* said Jardine.

The stadium was completed ahead of schedule and will host both the opening and final matches of the 2010 FIFA World Cup. Bafana Bafana will open the games against Mexico on 11 June. With 87,000 seats, and numerous paraplegic seats, it is not only the largest in Africa but also one of the biggest all seated stadium ever built for any football world cup event. Furthermore, the architects have ensured that not a single spectator is more than around 105m from the soccer pitch.

There are a total of 193 suites and roughly 2,700 seats dedicated solely to media. 860 parking bays and 77 concession kiosks are included within the grounds. Particularly marked black seats form lines pointing in the direction of the other stadia in South Africa where World Cup matches will be played, whilst one line points to Berlin's Olympiastadion where the final match of the 2006 FIFA World Cup was played. These lines are continued down the façade, in the passages and ramps and on the paving outside.

Building the stadium required 90,000m<sup>3</sup> of concrete, roughly 12,000 tons of reinforcement steel, 9 million bricks and 13,000 tons of structural steel. The structure is fitted with a double layer fabric roof while the calabash-inspired design of the façade required 32,400 fibre cement panels.

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### **Notes to Editors:**

#### **Soccer City**

- 12 A-frame structures were needed to support the roof of the stadium. These were manufactured by Italian company, Cimolai and lifted into place by the largest crane ever used on a construction site in South Africa. The crane has a lifting capacity of 200m and up to 800 tons and was supplied by Austrian company Felbermayr.
- The stadium is fitted with 879 male urinals, 140 male toilets and 967 female toilets.
- The stadium is built to look like a calabash. This design was chosen because the calabash is traditionally used to store food, water and/or traditional beer. In the case of Soccer City, the calabash will hold the soccer supporters who have travelled far and wide for the event.
- The stadium is located strategically between the soccer-fanatical Soweto to its South West and Johannesburg to the North East.

#### **The Aveng Group**

- Grinaker-LTA forms part of The Aveng Group, the JSE's leading infrastructure company, which operates in 26 companies across the globe.
- As a major player in the preparations for the 2010 FIFA World Cup, Grinaker-LTA is monitored by the Department of Labour and various auditing bodies within the industry to ensure it complies with the necessary safety, health and environment laws and regulations at all times. Internal audits are also held on a regular basis, which extend to the subcontractors on site. The group constantly monitors and looks to improve its safety, health and environment record.
- The Aveng Group has six subsidiaries, namely McConnell Dowell Corporation Ltd, Grinaker-LTA, Engineering & Projects Company, Moolmans, Aveng Manufacturing and Trident Steel. The Aveng Group reported revenues of R33,8 billion and headline earnings of R2,1 billion in 2009.

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