Hemisphere

Case Study: GateMate

Hemisphere GPS Debuts GateMate at 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics

At the 2010 Vancouver Winter Calgary Olympics, based Hemisphere GPS launched its innovative solution to improve the process of gate setup for Alpine ski racing. The product dubbed GateMate combines Hemisphere GPS' patented Crescent® or Eclipse[™] GPS technology receiver with а handheld computer and custom designed software to create



a system that can precisely measure, map and track the gate placement of Alpine ski courses without any manual measuring or triangulation techniques.

"GateMate increased our confidence in course setup at both the Olympic and World Cup events," says Mike Kirker, Chief of Course for the Men's World Cup Downhill at Lake Louise and the Olympic Alpine races at Whistler. "The benefits of using GPS and simplicity of the GateMate application have made significant improvements to course management."

Before GateMate was introduced, ski race organizers had to physically record the placement of ski gates by measuring the distance to objects such as trees or fences on the sidelines with measuring tape, and triangulating the position of each gate. This process was highly inefficient, time consuming, and tedious considering the number of times gates can be removed and replaced during ski race training runs. With GateMate, Olympic organizers were able to mark the coordinates of each gate on a touch screen PC and precisely save each location to within centimeters of its original position. Initial product use at Olympic and World Cup races indicate GateMate can save volunteers more than 2.5 hours



on a typical FIS downhill course, each time they go through the process of re-placing gates. The process with GateMate also provides immediate detailed measurements of the course layout, including distances, elevations and max/min gradients from gate to gate, and automatically outputs Google Earth[™] map files in KML file format.

GateMate Advantages

- When mapping (tagging gates), the user is able to identify start(s), finish, left and right gates, race line and gate numbers
- Stake-out feature provides grid and compass view to aid the operator in placing the gate
- Course maps are stored for review and analysis and/or for staking out the course at a later date
- Job files with custom course details are output in XLS and KML file types for spreadsheet reports and advanced mapping on Google Earth[™]
- Upgrade to centimeter-level accuracy with Hemisphere GPS Real-Time Kinematic (RTK) solutions



Men's Olympic Downhill course Mapped on Google Earth™ through GateMate

Steven Koles, President & CEO of Hemisphere GPS, mapping Men's Downhill course with GateMate at 2010 Olympics