



Tower Bridge Olympic Rings



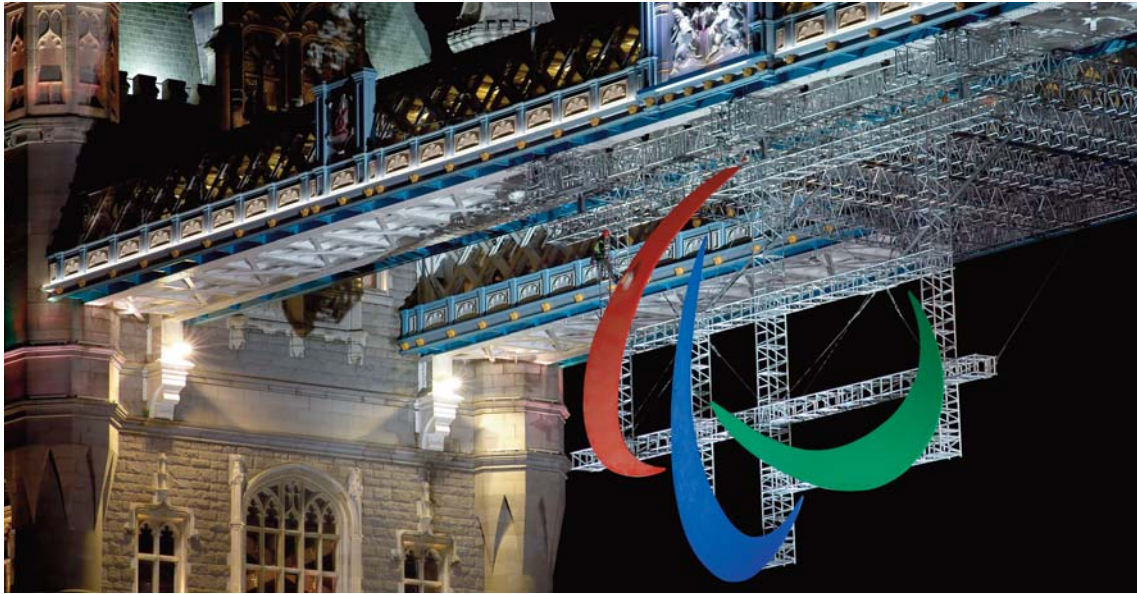
AUTOMATED: The rings took around three minutes to lower, lifting when required to allow the bascules to open and let the river traffic through.



To mark a significant moment in the run-up to the London 2012 Olympic Games, we manufactured a giant set of automated Olympic rings to be mounted on the historic London landmark of Tower Bridge.

Working for Innovision, we manufactured the 25 metre wide and 11.5 metre high rings and truss grid in our 7,000 square metre workshops near York. The aluminium ring system was initially suspended horizontally from Tower Bridge before being ceremonially lowered to the vertical position to mark the commencement of the one-month countdown to the London 2012 Opening Ceremony.





TOWERING ICONS: The Olympic Rings were replaced with the Paralympic Agitos.

The installation was no simple operation: Tower Bridge is an iconic global landmark and a heritage structure, as well as functioning bridge. Planning permission and various road closures were required, along with a 12 hour closure of the bridge itself. The 3 tonne rings were mounted on the 9 tonne truss grid, with the whole lot being assembled on a barge upstream, before being floated into position with the assistance of a high tide. The bascules of Tower Bridge were opened to their full 86° limit to allow the whole 12 tonne system to be hoisted into place and fixed to the underside of the top walkway.



The automation allowed the rings to accommodate the operation of the bridge, lifting the ring system from the vertical down position to a raised horizontal position, enabling the bridge bascules to open and allow the passage of river traffic beneath. At the end of the London 2012 Games, we removed the rings, replacing them with a similarly sized and automated Paralympic Agitos.

