28th South East Asian Games Ceremonies

We manufactured, installed and operated a bespoke aerial system for the opening and closing ceremonies of the 28th South East Asian Games in Singapore. The Games are a prestigious event in the region, the seven participating countries bringing in a potential television audience of 600 million.

We initially consulted on the suitability of the stadium for an aerial based show, before being commissioned to work with Sport Singapore; Creative Director, Beatrice Chia; and the production team to develop a flying system that underpinned the narrative of the opening ceremony.
The Track System

Suspended from the roof of Singapore’s National Stadium, the largest single-spanned dome structure in the world, the system comprised 520 metres of track which curved around the roof 30 metres above the field of play. The track used buzz bar technology to deliver power and positional data to a series of ten carriages, each fitted with a winch.

The Singapore aerial system was a variant of that developed for use in the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, for which we undertook significant R&D to develop a new method of accurately transmitting the required power and complex positional data over the large distances found within such large stadia.

The track in Singapore took our crew twelve weeks to install before commissioning and rehearsals began. The ten carriages were designed to fly large scenic items, such as the scenic train, which emerged from a ‘green room’ storage garage behind the scenes. We worked with the various scenic suppliers to ensure the creative intent of the show was realised in the best possible way.

For flying the performers, we installed a 3D Bridle system with four suspended winch platforms, enabling the three dimensional space within the stadium to be fully utilised during the performances.
The DNA

We also provided the scenic centre-piece of the opening ceremony’s finale: an inflatable 25 metre long strand of DNA that symbolised the creative concept behind the ceremonies namely, ‘what unites the human race, also makes each of us unique’.

The DNA strand presented a few technical challenges. As an inflatable item, it was concealed underneath the stage in a cavity less than two metres high, allowing for a dramatic emergence as it was raised up and rotated at the appropriate moment, using our 3D system.

The challenge came in coordinating the inflation, rotation and lifting of the double helix, ensuring that as the 25 metres of DNA gradually emerged from the restricted space under the stage, the visible sections were fully inflated whilst rotating and lifting at the correct speed.