

Press Release
13 July 2012

The Arena Resilience Alliance Publishes Findings on European Test Events

The Arena Resilience Alliance (ARA) - a special purpose initiative, created by the European Arenas Association (EAA) has published a report with the findings from a series of test events that have taken place over the past few weeks with the aim of providing a framework for the return to live events in Europe.

Arenas across Europe have been staging test events in close collaboration with regional health authorities and national government guidance. Events numbering 20 in total at 12 venues have varied from one hundred capacity events to much larger scale shows, such as the Eurovision Song Contest with up to 3.500 attendees, and the concerts in Palau Sant Jordi, Barcelona and AccorHotels Arena, Paris with up to 5.000 attendees.

Event protocols covered a range of differing approaches involving heightened safety and preventative measures, customer service delivery and infrastructure adaptations.

To date, there are no recorded clusters of infection from those who attended the test events and there is no published evidence that these events caused any spread of the virus. The findings appear to show that with the correct implementation of safety measures, in particular pre-event Covid testing and the use of the EU Digital Certificate, it is possible to host safe indoor live events.

The Arena Resilience Alliance and its supporters will continue their dialogue with scientific experts and the study of developments in relation to the virus to ensure visitor safety.

Olivier Toth, CEO, Rockhal in Luxembourg, EAA Board Member and co-founder of the ARA said: *“These events are an important step forward in testing the efficacy of safety measures we can employ. We are very happy to share our experience and insights and hope that they provide a framework of safety protocols that can support back to business strategies and enable us to get back to hosting fan-attended events.”*

ENDS

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Notes to editors:

Arena Resilience Alliance: Europe Live, The Test Results

- The report is based on more than 20 test events that have taken place at indoor arenas across Europe and presents results available to date.
- Participating arenas: AccorHotels Arena Paris, Ahoy Arena Rotterdam, Avia Solutions Group Arena Vilnius, Barclaycard Arena Hamburg, Mercedes-Benz Arena Berlin, Palau Sant Jordi Barcelona, Quarterback Immobilien Arena Leipzig, Rockhal Luxembourg (2 venues), Saku Suurhall Talinn, The O2 London, and Ziggo Dome Amsterdam

About the EAA:

- The EAA represents 35 arenas in 20 European countries that operate some of the world’s most cutting-edge venues, hosting unrivalled programs with outstanding artists, productions, sports and corporate events. The association’s member arenas host over 2,900 annual events attracting a total audience of 19 million people.
- Over the last years, the EAA has strengthened relationships with the EU governing bodies to ensure the inclusion of arenas as part of the policy-making decisions. EAA has been involved in a number of activities and projects in the following areas: live music, sports and education, training & research.

About the ARA:

- ARA was conceived by EAA Members, Olivier Toth (CEO, Rockhal, Luxembourg) and Robert Fitzpatrick (CEO, The Odyssey Trust in Northern Ireland (owners of The SSE Arena, Belfast)), who both recognised the urgent need for arenas to unite and to raise awareness on the current difficulties of these venues and what impact their closure was having on communities.
- ARA is working closely with EU governing bodies to advance awareness of the importance of the physical infrastructure of arenas and their contribution to the wellness of every European citizen.