The Athens 2004 Olympic Games brought worldwide Olympic sponsorship to new heights and enabled the TOP Partners to maximise their association with the world's greatest sporting and cultural event in a more meaningful way than ever before.

The Olympic Partnership, known as the TOP programme, is the international sponsorship programme that has provided a foundation of continual, global support for the Olympic Movement for nearly two decades. The TOP Partners, or Worldwide Olympic Partners, provide significant year-round contributions of products, services, technology, expertise and financial resources to the Olympic Family on a four-year basis. These contributions support the International Olympic Committee, the Organising Committees for the Olympic Games, and every National Olympic Committee in the world.

While several of the Worldwide Olympic Partners have supported the Olympic Movement since long before the IOC established the TOP programme in 1985, and while others have participated in the TOP programme for several Olympiads, the Athens 2004 Olympic Games provided unprecedented value in global reach and historical significance.
In 2004 the Olympic Games became more globally inclusive than ever, with a record 202 participating nations. In turn, TOP Partnership became both more important and more valuable. On one hand, the TOP programme’s foundation of support was partly responsible for enabling Olympism to reach more athletes in more countries than ever before. On the other hand, the expansion of Olympism provided the Worldwide Olympic Partners with the opportunity to share the experience with the world and to touch consumers in new markets.

The Worldwide Olympic Partners demonstrated their global support for the Olympic Movement in a magnificent environment, amid a culture imbued with a powerful connection to the tradition of the Olympic Games, and in a nation with a keen understanding of the historical role of Olympism in defining the pinnacle of human achievement. It was a magical experience — one that offered the TOP Partners unrivalled marketing opportunities and gave the world an enhanced perspective on the vital impact of Olympic sponsorship in supporting the world’s greatest tradition.

The Worldwide Olympic Partners in the fifth generation of the TOP programme (TOP V) did much more than provide vital contributions of products, services, technology, expertise and financial resources to the Athens 2004 Olympic Games. The TOP Partners made essential contributions to the successful staging of the Athens 2004 Olympic Games, developed innovative programmes to support the athletes, shared the spirit of the Games with billions of people, promoted the universal ideals of Olympism, and left an enduring Olympic Games legacy for Greece and the world.

**Athens 2004 Olympic Games Sponsorship**

As the Olympic Games returned to Greece for the first time since 1896, the Athens 2004 sponsorship programme offered a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Greek companies to play a vital role in staging a global sporting and cultural event that was significant to the country’s past, present and future.

The Athens 2004 sponsorship programme was an outstanding success that significantly increased the overall value of Olympic Games sponsorship. Managed by the Athens Organising Committee for the 2004 Olympic Games (ATHOC), the sponsorship programme was launched in May 2000 and provided Greek companies the opportunity to support a significant national endeavour, to benefit from an association with the Olympic Games and the Greek Olympic team, to leverage the investment over a period of more than four years, and to generate substantial business results from a range of contributions, programmes and activities.

In Greece, a nation of fewer than 11 million people, Athens 2004 sponsorship provided the highest-ever per capita support of any domestic programme in the history of the Olympic Games.

The initial revenue target of €200 million from the Athens 2004 domestic sponsorship programme was met two years before the Opening Ceremony.

The Athens 2004 domestic sponsorship programme ultimately exceeded initial targets by 57%, generating more than €300 million in domestic sponsorship of the Olympic Games and sponsorship of the Athens 2004 Olympic Torch Relay.

The Athens 2004 sponsorship programme, with support from domestic sponsors and TOP partners combined, was the second largest source of revenue for the staging of the Olympic Games, providing approximately 23% of the Organising Committee’s balanced budget.

The strategic planning of the Athens 2004 sponsorship programme created an environment of limited commercialism and heightened visibility for each sponsor that contributed vital products, services, technology and expertise to the success of the 2004 Olympic Games. The Athens Organising Committee developed its marketing agenda with the plan to limit the sponsorship programme to a maximum of 40 partners. The programme ultimately included 23 sponsors across three tiers.

“The Athens 2004 Sponsorship Programme was an outstanding success. The Grand National Sponsors supported the staging of the Games, honoured the history and heritage of Greece and shared the Olympic spirit with the world.” — Gerhard Heiberg, Chairman, IOC Marketing Commission

Ultimately, the domestic Athens 2004 Olympic Games sponsors mirrored the significant contributions of the Worldwide Olympic Partners by providing products, services, technology and financial resources to the success of the Games, by supporting the Greek Olympic team, by sharing the spirit of the Games with all of Greece, by promoting the Olympic ideals, and by creating a legacy of the Olympic Games for Greece.
The grand spectacle of the Olympic Games, amidst a cultural festival that gripped Greece and the world, and throughout an event that ranged from Attica to Thessaloniki, Volos, Heraklio, Patras and Olympia, there was always the core element of sporting competition. Athlete versus athlete, at a single moment in time. To determine the results of Olympic competition, to declare Olympic champions, required accurate measurement and precision timing — and these required state-of-the-art technology.

Swatch, a Worldwide Olympic Partner, provided the Athens 2004 Olympic judges and officials with its best-tested timing and scoring equipment to determine the results of Olympic competitions. As the official timekeeper of the Olympic Games, Swatch was responsible for timing, measurement and scoring systems, competitors’ scoreboards and public displays, and on-venue results at all Athens 2004 Olympic competitions.

Five months before the Olympic Games, Swatch shipped to Athens tonnes of sports timing equipment, including shot clocks and starting blocks, transponders and tachometers, speed guns and scanners, as well as photo-finish technology. The leading Swiss watch-making group then fielded a team of more than 300 sports timing and measurement experts in Athens to oversee, operate and manage the accuracy of Swatch timing and scoring technology that proved crucial to the success of the Games.

For the first time in Olympic history, a Swatch photo-finish image captured two cyclists crossing the finish line at precisely the same moment, accurate to 1/1000th of a second. The unprecedented dead heat took place in the Women’s Sprint Quarterfinals in Cycling Track, as Russia’s Tamilla Abassova and Lithuania’s Simona Krupeckaitė both recorded an official race time of 11.776 seconds, forcing a decision to re-run the race.

STAGING THE OLYMPIC GAMES

THROUGH CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STAGING OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES, OLYMPIC SPONSORS SHOWCASE CORPORATE CAPABILITIES ON THE WORLD STAGE.

The successful staging of the 2004 Olympic Games required seven years of preparation, the creation of a vast infrastructure, the development of large-scale operations, and the seamless integration of complex systems. By working for years to provide the necessary products, services, technology and expertise, the Olympic sponsors helped to make the Athens 2004 Olympic Games possible.

In turn, the Olympic sponsors’ contributions to the Athens 2004 Olympic Games provided the opportunity to display core business solutions to a global audience, to earn distinction as industry leaders, to strengthen business relationships, and to enhance brand identity in association with the power of the Olympic Image.
When the Men’s 100m Final in Athletics at Athens 2004 was complete, only 1/100th of a second separated each of the first four sprinters at the finish line. Olympic judges consulted the Swatch photo-finish image to determine the outcome of this marquee event before awarding the gold, silver and bronze medals respectively to Justin Gatlin of United States, Francis Obikwelu of Portugal, and the U.S.’s Maurice Green.

Before, during and after each Olympic event, timing and scoring data are gathered, processed and fed through networks and channels to a broad range of audiences — the Olympic athletes and their coaches, the Olympic judges and officials, the spectators and the media, as well as nearly four billion television viewers in more than 200 countries around the world.

The consortium of technology sponsors for the Athens 2004 Olympic Games supplied a vast network of 10,500 computing devices, 900 servers, 23,000 phones, 4,000 results system terminals, 13,000 mobile phones, and 4,000 printers that not only delivered the timing and scoring results to the world in less than a second, but which also contributed to all aspects of Olympic Games operations and management.

Atos Origin, a Worldwide Olympic Partner, is the global technology integrator for the Olympic Games. The company worked for years to develop a way of bringing all the hardware, software, applications and networking equipment provided by the technology sponsors together in a secure and seamless environment. The company developed the Games Management Systems that were central to the efficient management of Olympic Games operations, providing accreditation, transportation and accommodation schedules, medical encounters reports, sports qualifications, and protocol information. Atos Origin also created the Information Diffusion Systems that relayed results and information to the athletes, spectators, media, broadcasters, and ultimately four billion observers around the world.
The Athens 2004 Olympic Games was a remarkable achievement for each of the Olympic sponsors participating in the technology consortium. The Games also were an extraordinary opportunity to demonstrate the capabilities of products, services, technology, expertise and talent before a global audience at the most extraordinary sport and cultural spectacle that the world has ever known.

Xerox, a Worldwide Olympic Partner, demonstrated the capabilities of its technology, products and personnel at the 2004 Olympic Games by producing printed competition results for the press, broadcasters, athletes, sponsors and Olympic staff. The company contributed nearly 6,000 high-performing digital multifunction systems, printers and copiers, all of which were integrated into the timing, scoring, results and information diffusion systems. In addition, more than 230 Xerox support engineers from 20 countries worked on site and around the clock throughout the duration of the Games to ensure that all Xerox systems functioned flawlessly. Xerox printed and delivered more than 50 million pages of qualified results over the course of 17 days.

Atos Origin also developed an integrated security solution for the Athens 2004 Olympic Games IT infrastructure that prevented attacks from viruses and hackers. The company focused on three key IT areas — security architecture, risk management and operations — to ensure an effective response to any potential threat from either inside or outside of the network. The effort made certain that competition results and information were relayed to the media and the world accurately, in real-time and without disruption.

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The ultimate goal of the sponsors’ technology contributions was to increase the efficiency of Olympic Games operations. Samsung, a Worldwide Olympic Partner, achieved this goal by developing a communications system that enabled Olympic officials, staff, media and athletes to access and transmit critical data in the palms of their hands. To create the Wireless Olympic Works (WOW), Samsung worked in close collaboration with Atos Origin, the IOC, ATHOC, and COSMOTE, a Grand National Sponsor. Samsung made the WOW network available on the more than 14,000 wireless communications devices that the company contributed to the Games, providing athletes, officials, media, staff and volunteers with up-to-the-minute information on demand about results, medal counts, event schedules and cancellations.

The telecommunications consortium for the Athens 2004 Olympic Games installed and operated the necessary infrastructure to provide for integrated telecommunications services, the international transmission of the broadcast signal, and the interconnection of information technology systems in a single network for the immediate release of Olympic event results.
OTE and COSMOTE, the Athens 2004 Grand National Sponsors for telecommunications services, provided the Olympic Games with 43,000 new fixed telephony connections, 3,000 ISDN connections, 3,000 ADSL lines, 13,000 new TETRA connections, VSAT, 500 international circuits for radio broadcasting, videoconferencing, cable television, a call center for ticketing and volunteer matters with a capacity of 200 concurrent calls, and a fully staffed 24-hour telecommunications control center. The two companies also provided networking solutions, including optical ring networks, television and radio networks, fixed and mobile telephony networks, a network of inbuilt cable infrastructure, two multiplexing nodes connecting each Olympic complex, and two mothering digital exchanges serving each Olympic venue.

The Olympic telecommunications infrastructure and networks were designed with the ultimate goal of providing telecommunications services with maximum security and durability. It was a tremendous challenge that resulted in a staggering achievement. By succeeding in this task, OTE and COSMOTE showcased their capabilities on the world stage as millions of people benefited from the consortium’s integrated, top-quality telecommunications services.

“The network infrastructure developed by COSMOTE for the Olympic Games showcases Greece’s technological achievements, and brings the country at the forefront of mobile telephony on a global scale. Thanks to the excellent Olympic network design, evidence of COSMOTE’s intensive and systematic preparation and planning, and the vital contribution of its dedicated personnel, COSMOTE responded to an unprecedented challenge, once again beyond expectations.” — Evangelos Martigopoulos, Chief Executive Officer, COSMOTE

Eastman Kodak Company, a Worldwide Olympic Partner, provided operational support for fundamental Olympic Games management and security initiatives. Kodak’s imaging technology was integrated into the electronic accreditation system supplied and maintained by Atos Origin to create all Athens 2004 accreditation badges with photo identification for 350,000 athletes, coaches, sponsors, contractors, volunteers and security personnel who participated in the Athens 2004 Olympic Games. Kodak and Atos Origin collaborated on the making of 200,000 accreditation badges in July 2004 alone — each one in less than 10 seconds.
Like the best judges and officials in a sports competition, the goal of most technology sponsors is to perform so well at the Olympic Games that they are never noticed. But while a great deal of sponsor support for the staging of the Games occurs behind the scenes, other sponsor contributions actually create the scene. Sponsors’ products, services, technology and expertise not only help to make the Games happen, but also help Olympic spectators, Athens visitors, and people around the world witness the Olympic spectacle and become increasingly engaged in the Olympic experience.

Kodak helped to make the Olympic Games happen for people around the globe by supporting the photographers who provide the world with a glimpse of the events, the experience, and the spectacular visual impact of the Athens 2004 Olympic Games. The company provided more than 1,300 accredited photojournalists and news agencies with traditional and digital photographic products and services at the Kodak Image Center, an 18,000-square foot facility in the Main Press Center. At this facility — the world’s largest photo lab — Kodak offered the widest array of digital and traditional film technologies and services ever assembled and, for the first time in Olympic history, digitised 100% of all professional photos taken at the Games, making it quicker and easier for photojournalists to disseminate images to all parts of the world.

The Kodak Image Center offered accredited photographers pre-Games digital camera tune-ups, digital camera loan and repair services, image scanning, computer workstations with mass electronic storage space, thermal proofing, large-format inkjet output, large volume production output, film processing, image transfer to CD, and high-speed transmission of images from the Main Press Center to the world’s newsrooms. With its digital imaging technology and an efficient system, Kodak saved photographers valuable time at Athens 2004 by cutting three to four hours off the same process from Salt Lake 2002, less than two and a half years earlier.

To bring spectators and television viewers closer to the excitement of the competition, Panasonic, a Worldwide Olympic Partner, provided a comprehensive range of audio/visual equipment and technical support to the Athens 2004 Olympic Games. Panasonic’s products, services and technology helped Athens Olympic Broadcasting, the host broadcaster for Athens 2004, provide the Olympic broadcast partners and their thousands of television viewers around the world with 3,850 hours of live and recorded images of Olympic competitions and ceremonies. The company contributed 100 Panasonic DVP9050 VTRs as well as 200 professional cameras and camcorders to capture the action at the Olympic venues. Panasonic also supplied 1,600 broadcast-quality monitors to the editors and technical operators at the broadcast editing suites and in the transmission centre of International Broadcast Centre. The company also provided the broadcasters with around-the-clock engineering support during the Games.

In a larger-than-life contribution, Panasonic brought the Olympic experience closer to spectators and fans by providing 14 Astrovision giant screens to the Athens 2004 Olympic Games. The 12 screens in the Olympic venues brought Olympic spectators closer to the field of play, and visitors gathered to view all the Olympic action on giant screens outside the venues in public areas at the Athens Olympic Sports Complex and the Water Plaza at the Faliro Coastal Zone. The two Astrovision screens at the Olympic Stadium measured 111 square meters and weighed 12 tons each, and brought video aspects of the Opening and Closing Ceremonies as well as real-time and replayed competition images into clear focus — even in direct sunlight — to spectators seated more than 200 meters away. The company’s audio contribution included 153 RAMSA audio systems for 33 venues at the Games, involving more than 1,200 speakers and 200 audio decks.

Beyond technology, there are many ways that both worldwide and domestic Athens 2004 sponsors contributed to the successful staging of the Olympic Games. The sponsors provided key operational, logistical and product support. They integrated their brands, products and services into the Olympic experience in ways that had significant impact on sales volume, product usage and brand awareness in the host city and around the world.

Efficient transportation is critically important to the success of the Olympic Games. To ensure that the thousands of Olympic officials and staff could get where they needed to be, Hyundai—Hellas, a Grand National Sponsor, provided more than 3,500 vehicles to the Athens Organising Committee. Hyundai vehicles were festively decorated in the Athens 2004 Look of the Games, enhancing the company’s association with the Games in the minds of Olympic visitors in Athens. The company also helped to reinforce its sponsorship in the minds of the public by providing free rides on main access roads and to main Olympic venues in brightly decorated buses.

To support Olympic Games ticketing operations and sales effort, Alpha Bank, a Grand National Sponsor, became a major Athens 2004 ticketing outlet by selling ceremony and event tickets in 140 selected branch offices throughout Greece. The contribution helped to bring the excitement of Athens 2004 directly to spectators and provided significant recognition for Alpha Bank as an official sponsor of the Games.
This summer, hundreds of thousands of visitors and spectators arrived in Athens hoping to see the world’s greatest athletes and wanting to bring home a souvenir of the experience. They had tickets to purchase and official merchandise to buy. Once again, a sponsor’s contribution made this possible.

Visa, a Worldwide Olympic Partner and the only card accepted at Olympic venues, provided payment system services to ATHOC and the 2004 Olympic Games through a special network of 17 ATMs and 650 point-of-sale acceptance devices, working with its partner, Alpha Bank. Services were provided at Athens 2004 competition and non-competition venues including the Athens Olympic Sports Complex, the Main Press Centre, the International Broadcast Centre, and the Athlete’s Village. The ATM network and acceptance services made it possible for Olympic athletes, officials, media, spectators and visitors to purchase tickets, souvenirs, meals and other necessities while working at or enjoying the Olympic Games. The support successfully enhanced the Visa brand in the minds of all who attended the Games and generated significant transactions and sales volume from Visa cardholders.

Athens 2004 raised the bar once again for Visa International in its 18-year Olympic sponsorship, with sales volumes of approximately 10 million (US$12 million) in card purchases at Olympic venues in 17 days.

A total of 108,977 point of sale transactions were made at the 650 devices that Visa and Alpha Bank installed at Athens 2004.

The average Visa card transaction value of 86.25 (US$103.50) for Athens 2004 was a 44% increase over the equivalent figure for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

The more than 50,000 withdrawals totaling 5.4 million made at the 17 Olympic ATMs marked a 41% increase over Sydney.

Visa’s mobile ATM proved to be extremely popular as it travelled around Olympic venues, as 1,530 Visa cardholders withdrew cash.

Visa transactions throughout Greece as processed through Alpha Bank increased 55% during August 2004 compared to August 2003.

Visa also supported visitors and its cardholders with five Visa Information Centers in Athens in partnership with Alpha Bank, to help

When the world turned its attention to Athens in August 2004, they saw the Olympic Games staged in a beautiful setting beneath clear blue skies and bright sunlight. As Olympic competition heated up, the summer temperatures in Athens climbed above 37 degrees Celsius, or 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

A substantial contribution from The Coca-Cola Company, a Worldwide Olympic Partner, helped to ensure that Olympic athletes, officials, staff, volunteers and spectators were refreshed, hydrated and healthy, as all enjoyed soft drinks, water, sports drinks and juices while competing, working, and enjoying the Games under the Athens sun. During the Games, Coca-Cola provided approximately 17 million beverage servings through more than 150 Olympic sites. To make the contribution possible, Coca-Cola Hellas and its bottling partner, Coca-Cola Hellenic Bottling Company S.A. (CCHBC), mobilised more than 3,000 pieces of cold drink equipment and more than 80 delivery vehicles. The Coca-Cola refreshment team in Athens included more than 260 people from the 26 countries where CCHBC operates.

“The sponsorship has significantly raised our profile especially outside Athens. We also see a goodwill effect from being so closely associated with this huge national endeavour.”— Yannis Costopoulos, Chairman, Alpha Bank.
The Athens 2004 Olympic Games provided Kodak with an opportunity to demonstrate the quality of its health imaging technology while providing vital direct support to the Olympic athletes — support that would have a positive impact on their performances in competition. Kodak technology and health imaging equipment enabled the Athens 2004 Polyclinic, the primary medical centre for Olympic athletes at the Games, to become the first all-digital diagnostic facility in Greece and the first all-digital Polyclinic in Olympic Games history. The Polyclinic conducted more than 1,400 radiology examinations and more than 350 dental exams for athletes during the Games.

The company equipped the Athens 2004 Polyclinic with state-of-the-art digital medical imaging equipment to keep the Olympic athletes in peak health by helping to diagnose injuries and other medical conditions. Kodak technology enabled radiologists at the Polyclinic to send digital x-rays, CT scans and other medical images and reports to specialists at the ATTIKO University Hospital in metropolitan Athens, which assisted in serving Olympic athletes and officials. Kodak’s technology and equipment also made diagnostic images of athletes’ injuries instantly available to medical specialists in remote locations, including the athletes’ trainers and doctors in their home countries. Kodak also installed a digital medical imaging capture system at KAT Hospital, the largest trauma treatment hospitals in Greece, which also assisted in serving individuals associated with the Olympic Games.

“Because our systems allow images to be sent electronically to remote specialists, an injured athlete will not have to travel across town for diagnostic imaging services. This is key, since rapid diagnosis and treatment can mean the difference between an athlete returning to competition or having to drop out of the Games.” — Dan Kerpelman, Senior Vice President of Kodak and President of Kodak Health Imaging Group
In addition to services for athletes at the Polyclinic, Kodak also placed its consumer photography and imaging products in the hands of Olympic athletes during the Games. The company provided its Picture Maker kiosks in the Olympic Village so that athletes could easily print, share, upload and store images from their digital cameras and mobile phones. At the Olympic Village’s Internet Café, athletes were able to use PC workstations to upload their digital pictures to Kodak’s online photo services, allowing them to store and immediately share their pictures with family and friends anywhere in the world.

Olympic sponsors help the Olympic athletes to achieve their goals and enjoy their time at the Games amid the challenges of preparing for and competing in the most significant event of their lives. In making these contributions, Athens 2004 sponsors demonstrated their commitment to the Olympic ideals while leveraging the benefits of placing their products and services in the hands of the world’s most elite athletes.

The Coca-Cola Company provided thousands of beverages to refresh the Olympic athletes before and during the Games, including Coca-Cola and its other soft drink brands, Powerade sports drink, Motion fruit juice and Avia water. Furthermore, in partnership with Powerade, the IOC published a detailed “Nutrition for Athletes” guide that was distributed to thousands of athletes and their trainers at Athens 2004. The extensive booklet, prepared by the Nutrition Working Group of the IOC, was a comprehensive, practical guide to eating for health and performance that contained reference material for the serious athlete concerned about the competitive benefits of proper nutrition.

Celebrating its fourth consecutive Olympic Games as a Worldwide Olympic Partner, McDonald’s offered one of the most expansive and diverse menus in its history with the Olympic Games to athletes in the Olympic Village. The menu served by the company’s Olympic Champion Crew included Premium Salads, Fruit ‘n Yogurt Parfaits and fresh apples along with athletes’ favorites: the Big Mac™ sandwich, World Famous Fries™, the Egg McMuffin™ sandwich, and Chicken McNuggets™. Working in concert with Dr. Patrick Schamasch, Medical Director of the IOC, a complete nutrition outreach programme was also developed, providing information on McDonald’s menu and meal combinations to his network of athletes, coaches and participants in the Athens Games.

The atmosphere at the McDonald’s restaurant in the Olympic Village was lively, and the service was outstanding. As an athlete approached the counter dressed in the apparel of his or her national team to order a meal, the international McDonald’s crew often applauded and voiced cheers for the athlete’s national Olympic team. When an athlete from a crew member’s home country approached the counter, the cheers were often even more energetic — an experience that provided the athletes with a familiar taste of home with their McDonald’s meals. In turn, some Olympic athletes visited the McDonald’s restaurant in the Olympic Village just to meet and talk with crew members from their home countries, providing the McDonald’s staffers with the once-in-a-lifetime experience of meeting an Olympic athlete.
Visa International has provided more than US$100 million in direct support to Olympic athletes worldwide through their Olympic organisations since the company became a Worldwide Olympic Partner in 1986. Furthermore, Visa USA has provided more than US$9 million, based on Visa card usage, for the training and development of U.S. Olympic athletes in that time.

Visa has also developed the Team Visa programme, which helps aspiring young Olympic hopefuls pursue their dreams by providing direct financial support for their training expenses and the opportunity to benefit from the Olympic experience of a mentor, a former Olympic great. In partnership with its member banks, the company established Team Visa programmes as an integrated national sponsorship programme in Canada and 10 countries across Europe.

The programmes of the Olympic sponsors often help to provide direct support for Olympic athletes in training and competition, as well as to enhance the athletes’ Olympic experience. By providing crucial support for training and development or by providing a welcome and enjoyable atmosphere to athletes during the Games, Athens 2004 sponsors developed innovative means to contribute to the greatest achievements in the world of sport.

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The renowned Team Visa mentors for Athens 2004 — including Sir Steven Redgrave of the UK, Rosa Mota of Portugal, Sara Simeoni of Italy, Heide Ecker Rosendahl of Germany, Panagiotis Giannakis of Greece, and Bruny Surin of Canada — offered insights from their first-hand experiences at the Olympic Games and helped the young Olympians prepare mentally for the biggest challenge of their athletic careers.

As many as 9,000 athletes visited the Olympic Rendezvous @ Samsung at the Athens 2004 Olympic Games, a pavilion that the company designed to be the official meeting place for athletes and their families. All Olympic athletes and their family members were invited to attend the impressive OR@s facility at the Athens Olympic Sports Complex to relax, enjoy hospitality and entertainment, experience Samsung’s latest wireless telecommunication equipment, and call home. The company estimated that more than 7,500 athletes made free telephone calls to their families back home through Samsung’s “Share the Experience Call” programme and sent more than 115,000 e-mail messages and 5,000 text messages from the OR@s facility to friends and loved ones.

The OR@s was the centre of a wide range of other activities designed to entertain spectators and share the Olympic spirit with everyone at the Games. Samsung hosted a series of National Days at the OR@s to celebrate the many cultures that gathered at the Games. The company also auctioned Olympic memorabilia to raise funds for Right To Play, a humanitarian organisation that uses sport and play programmes to encourage the healthy physical, social and emotional development of the world’s most underprivileged children. Finally, the OR@s attracted as many as 800,000 visits from Olympic spectators, who got the chance to meet Olympic heroes and heroines in person while also enjoying 96 special events and 375,000 Samsung technology demonstrations. In this way, the company provided consumers with a rare opportunity that closely aligned the Samsung brand and telecommunications equipment with a memorable, once-in-a-lifetime Olympic experience.

“I AM DELIGHTED THAT SO MANY SPECTATORS HAVE CHOSEN TO ENJOY THE MANY EXCITING ACTIVITIES AT OR@s. WE WERE HONOURED WHEN THE OR@s WAS DESIGNATED AS ‘THE OFFICIAL MEETING PLACE FOR ATHLETES AND THEIR FAMILIES’ AND VERY PLEASED THAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ASSIST SO MANY ATHLETES AT THE GAMES. AS A SPONSOR, OUR AIM IS TO ADD VALUE AND THE FACT THAT 50% OF VISITORS TO OAKA ALSO CHOOSE TO VISIT OR@s SUGGESTS WE HAVE BEEN DOING THIS VERY SUCCESSFULLY.” — MR. II-HYUNG CHANG, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER, SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS CO., LTD

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“TEAM VISA TAKES OLYMPIC SPONSORSHIP BY THE CANADIAN CORPORATE COMMUNITY TO A NEW LEVEL. WHAT MAKES TEAM VISA SPECIAL IS THE FACT THAT THESE ASPIRING OLYMPIANS HAVE A MENTOR AVAILABLE TO THEM — AN EXPERIENCE I WISH I HAD WHEN I COMPETED INTERNATIONALLY. I WILL ENCOURAGE MEMBERS OF THE TEAM TO MAKE THE MOST OF THIS UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY.” — BRUNY SURIN, 1996 OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALLIST AND THE MENTOR OF TEAM VISA CANADA
At Athens 2004, the Visa Olympians Reunion Center brought past and present Olympic athletes together for hospitality and special events during the Games. The Visa Olympians Reunion Center (VORC) provided Olympians with a drop-in meeting place on site at the Olympic Games with live TV feeds of events, refreshments, and assistance with special reunion functions. The Center, which the company called “the most exclusive club in Athens,” saw nearly 5,000 visitors taking advantage of Visa’s hospitality at the VORC from August 11 – 30.

More than 750 Olympians from 50 countries used the facility as their base of operations. Located at the historic Athens Tennis Club, The Olympians Reunion Center was founded through a partnership between the IOC, the World Olympians Association and Visa, its founding partner, and run by Visa and the Hellenic Olympic Committee.

“The Visa Olympians Reunion Center symbolises Visa’s commitment to every Olympic athlete, past, present and future. This remarkable setting provides a point of connection for athletes from Olympic Games of the past and significantly is staffed by our hosts, the Hellenic Olympians Association. The Visa Olympians Reunion Center, the most exclusive club in town, is now an institution that Olympians seek out each Games, and I applaud Visa for its creation and its continued operation.” — IOC President Jacques Rogge

In a localised effort, Panasonic UK directly sponsored seven young British Olympians — gymnast Beth Tweddle, cyclist Jamie Staff, modern pentathlete Kate Allenby, triathlete Jodie Swallow, swimmer Sarah Price, and sailors Joe Glanfield and Nick Rogers. In addition to providing these athletes with financial support, Panasonic also found a way to contribute its own products to help in the athletes’ training. The company contributed Panasonic camcorders, DVD-ROM recorders and SD cards to the athletes so that they could record, review and study their training activities with a goal of continually improving their techniques.

While all Athens 2004 Grand National Sponsors contributed support for the Greek Olympic team, OTE, COSMOTE, and Alpha Bank each sponsored individual Greek athletes and teams.

- OTE and COSMOTE sponsored many Greek Olympians in Weightlifting and across several disciplines in Athletics, as well as the Greek Men’s Olympic Volleyball team.

- Alpha Bank sponsored six top Greek Olympians, including Nikolaos Kiklamanakis, who won a silver medal in Sailing, and Mirela Maniani, who won a bronze medal in the javelin throw at Athens 2004.
Olympic partners have developed creative programmes that benefit Olympic athletes and teams with support for training and development while simultaneously supporting the sponsor’s corporate business objectives and enhancing the sponsor’s image in communities where it does business.

Through the Team Xerox Olympian Program, created in 1990, U.S. Olympians travel throughout the U.S. to speak at events and fundraisers with business associations, civic organisations and youth groups. Xerox underwrites the athletes’ appearances at these events as part of its corporate commitment to supporting local communities and in turn contributes all financial proceeds from the programme to the U.S. Olympic team.

Team Xerox helps to bring the dreams of Olympic athletes into local communities around the country, to support the athletes with funding for training and development, to position Xerox as a company dedicated to supporting the Olympic athletes, and to reinforce Xerox’s association with Olympic athletes to the company’s business-to-business customers as well as consumers.

At the 2004 Olympic Games, Xerox and the U.S. Olympic Committee co-hosted the 16th Breakfast with the Olympians, gathering more than 20 Olympic athletes together with Xerox customers and employees to celebrate the spirit of the Games. The event, which included sports demonstrations by Olympic athletes as well as a panel discussion with the Olympians, was very successful in demonstrating to employees and customers the company’s tradition of support for Olympic athletes.

Sponsors support the Olympic athletes as they train and prepare for the Games. In turn, many athletes work with sponsors to provide inspiration in sponsor programmes, making speeches and lending their personal experiences and achievements to helping the Olympic sponsors meet their goals in business and community outreach.

John Hancock, a Worldwide Olympic Partner, has developed programmes designed to benefit four primary constituencies — sales intermediaries, client and consumer groups, employees and community groups — that allow these groups to touch the magic of the Olympic Games at the global and local level.

Through John Hancock’s Olympic Speakers Bureau, Olympians have participated in a variety of events including corporate trade shows, sales recognition conferences and financial seminars. The company has also implemented an innovative experiential marketing programme called John Hancock Fantasy Day. At these events, the company offers its participants the once-in-a-lifetime chance to share the field of play with Olympians and Olympic hopefuls, testing their own skill in such sports as fencing, archery, beach volleyball, swimming and baseball against that of Olympic athletes.

Through the Olympic Speakers Bureau and Fantasy Day programmes, John Hancock has been able to effectively strengthen business partnerships with a wide network of independent sales intermediaries and build and enhance key client relationships. In addition, these programmes have helped provide important support to athletes worldwide in their training and competition regimens and their ultimate dreams of representing their countries at the Olympic Games.

John Hancock augments its Olympic grassroots marketing initiatives with a multi-city U.S. figure skating tour entitled John Hancock Champions on Ice. The tour, which features many Olympians, serves as an effective platform for building the brand, building relationships, and building business through the identified constituency groups.
As Olympic sponsors incorporate Olympians — and images of Olympians — into their programmes and initiatives, they simultaneously communicate their support for the athletes while conveying powerful, emotive and inspirational messages of achievement and excellence to consumers around the world.

ELTA, the Hellenic Post, a Grand National Sponsor, emphasised its support for the Olympic Games in the minds of the Greek people and all Athens 2004 visitors with a programme directly tied to the success of Greek Olympians — issuing stamps to honour and commemorate Greek medallists.

An hour before midnight on 22 August, Day 9 of the Athens 2004 Olympic Games, Greek gymnast Dimosthenis Tampakos won the gold medal for Men’s Rings. Less than 12 hours later, stamps bearing the image of Tampakos, crowned with an olive wreath and celebrating his triumph on the medals podium, were available at venue and city post offices. The stamps were printed at post offices digitally, online, thus creating a world first in stamp production technology. By the end of the Games, the Greek Olympic team had won 16 medals — six gold, six silver and four bronze. ELTA later honoured the Greek Olympic medallists in a ceremony organised at the Zappeion Hall soon after the Games.

“THE PERFORMANCE OF THE GREEK ATHLETES EXCEEDED OUR EXPECTATIONS AND THEY REPRESENTED OUR COUNTRY IN THE BEST WAY, BY WINNING OLYMPIC MEDALS AND OFFERING US MANY SPECIAL MOMENTS. WE DEPICTED THEIR OLYMPIC VICTORIES ON STAMPS AND BY THIS UNIQUE WAY WE RECORDED THEM IN HISTORY.” — ANGELOS BRATAKOS, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, ELTA (HELLENIC POST)
Athens 2004 sponsors continued a tradition of building powerful direct and emotive connections with consumers, on the local and global level, by promoting the Olympic ideals through programmes and activities that are relevant to the goals of their own corporate branding initiatives.

In May 2004, McDonald's launched a company-wide initiative called “Go Active!”™ to support balanced, active lifestyles for people of all ages around the world. The effort aligns with the Olympic Movement's goals of promoting sport and encouraging the balance of body, will and mind. More than a programme, Go Active is a brand positioning for McDonald's in promoting healthy lifestyles, a theme for sub-branding all of McDonald's sports sponsorships and fitness education initiatives, as well as a specific set of branded McDonald's activities across all countries in which the company operates.

McDonald's implemented several Go Active activities in conjunction with the 2004 Olympic Games. The company's goactive.com consumer web site developed in partnership with the IOC offers tips and customised approaches for increasing physical activity in everyday life. McDonald's first-ever Go Active Day in Athens focused on the importance of daily fitness and highlighted Go Active stepometers, which promote the benefits of walking for exercise by calculating the number of steps a person takes. As many as 30,000 stepometers were distributed to journalists, trainers, athletes and spectators at the Olympic Games; and a special donation of 25,000 stepometers was also made to the Greek Ministry of Health for the children of Athens. The company distributed more than 30 million stepometers worldwide.

Go Active Ambassadors — including basketball star Yao Ming, tennis champions Venus and Serena Williams, track and field legends Carl Lewis and Jackie Joyner-Kersee, and renowned racewalker Robert Korzeniowski of Poland — comprise a team of world-famous Olympic athletes working in partnership with McDonald's to communicate the importance of active lifestyles through the goactive.com web site and special appearances.

The Olympic ideals of participation and unity were present in Panasonic’s “Sharing the Passion” slogan for Athens 2004. The theme emphasises the company’s unique way of communicating with consumers through its Olympic partnership, as Panasonic’s audio/visual technology brings Olympic spectators and television viewers around the world closer to the excitement of the Olympic Games and the passion of the athletes.

OTC and COSMOTE designed and implemented a consistent and targeted communications and marketing programme under the slogan, “One idea, one team, one voice.” A television advertising campaign was rolled out in four spots corresponding to the Olympic sports of Weightlifting, Road Running, High Jump, and the 400m relay in Athletics. Aligning the companies’ brand identities with the Olympic ideals, other advertisements promoted the spirit of the Olympic athletes and the Greek Olympic team in particular, in relation to OTE and COSMOTE’s corporate spirit, ideals and achievements. Both companies also implemented additional separate corporate campaigns and targeted marketing programmes to create awareness and communicate the Olympic ideals to the public.

“The Olympic Games have a heritage of personal excellence, fair play, cultural understanding and respect for humanity, which are perfectly aligned with Kodak’s corporate values of integrity, diversity, trust, respect for the dignity of each individual, continual improvement and personal renewal, recognition and celebration.” — Daniel A. Carp, Chairman and CEO, Eastman Kodak Company

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McDonald’s is also the global sponsor of Olympic Day Run and Walk events, a worldwide effort to draw attention to the Olympic ideals and the importance of physical fitness and balanced, active lifestyles. McDonald’s supports the planning and execution of Olympic Day Run events in the 119 countries where it does business. Participation has steadily increased worldwide, and in June 2004 McDonald’s helped to make the Olympic ideals a part of life for more than one million runners and walkers of all ages from around the world.

**THE OLYMPIC GAMES AND THE IDEALS THEY REPRESENT ARE PERFECTLY ALIGNED WITH OUR STRONG COMMITMENT TO HELPING PEOPLE EVERYWHERE LIVE MORE BALANCED, ACTIVE LIVES.** – LARRY LIGHT, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF GLOBAL MARKETING OFFICER, MCDONALD’S CORPORATION

In conjunction with the company’s strong focus on community, John Hancock leverages its Olympic sponsorship by developing and supporting outreach programmes that foster the Olympic ideals. The company’s Olympic Spirit programme is a community-based outreach initiative that invites select local youth to special events with featured Olympic medallists. Facilitated by John Hancock employee volunteers who conduct small group discussions with attendees, the programme focuses on how the Olympic ideals have helped the Olympic medalists achieve success in sport and in life.

Participants in John Hancock’s Olympic Spirit programme are also encouraged to apply for the F.L.A.M.E. programme (Finding Leaders Among Minorities Everywhere) conducted by the U.S. Olympic Committee. John Hancock sponsors this interactive five-day programme that brings young people to the Olympic training center in Colorado to participate in a leadership development programme focused on educating and exposing youth to the Olympic ideals. F.L.A.M.E. seeks to enhance the mind, body and spirit by providing minority youth with opportunities for personal growth and role models to emulate. To date John Hancock has sponsored seven youth to participate in the programme.

Samsung invited six winners from the “Share The Olympic Spirit with Samsung” online essay contest to attend the 2004 Olympic Games. The essay contest focused on the power of Olympic athletes to inspire individuals to achieve success in their own lives. Thousands of entrants from France, Germany, Italy, Russia, Spain and the UK wrote essays about who their Olympic heroes were, and why. Focusing on the Olympic ideals, entrants were asked to incorporate the word **goodwill**, **fair play**, **friendship**, **mind** or **effort** into their essays. The six essay contest winners had the opportunity to share in the spirit of Athens 2004 by attending competitions in Volleyball, Beach Volleyball, Basketball, Water Polo and Handball, as well as meeting renowned Olympians during a visit to the Olympic Rendezvous @ Samsung.

“The Olympic Games mean a great deal to me, and to have the opportunity to be in Athens during this unique sporting event and to enjoy the competition at first hand was amazing. The whole trip was a unique experience, and I would like to thank Samsung for making my dreams a reality. I really enjoyed meeting Olympic hero, Cathy Freeman.” — Yvonne Hauck of Germany, Samsung essay contest winner

Domestic sponsors have a unique opportunity to promote the Olympic ideals through programmes and initiatives for youth within the host country. Fage, an Athens 2004 Grand National Sponsor, developed environmental and education programmes to bring youth in touch with the Olympic ideals, Olympic history, and the principles of education and environmentalism. With its Junior yogurts as a key vehicle, Fage developed programmes for children that ran from 2002 through 2004.

In a programme conducted in 2002 called “Junior Wins the Gold Medal for the Protection of the Environment,” young consumers were educated on ways to contribute to the protection of the environment.

Through the 2003 initiative called “Junior Educates His Friends about Olympic Sports,” the company educated youth about various Olympic sports.

A programme conducted in 2004, entitled “Junior Narrates to His Friends Stories from the Ancient Olympic Games,” offered the youth of Greece the opportunity to learn about the history and myths about the ancient Olympic Games.

**THE OLYMPIC GAMES TRANSCEND SPORT, AND THE OLYMPIC IDEALS REPRESENT UNIVERSAL HUMAN VALUES. AS THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF OLYMPISM EMBODY THE BALANCE OF BODY, WILL AND MIND, THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT STRIVES TO BLEND SPORT WITH CULTURE AND EDUCATION.**

Olympic sponsors are partners in the effort to promote the Olympic ideals worldwide, to reinforce the connection between sport and culture, and to create initiatives that demonstrate that the Olympic ideals are relevant in all noble human endeavours. In Athens and around the world, art was an important element in this effort for several Olympic sponsors.

“THE OLYMPIC GAMES MEAN A GREAT DEAL TO ME, AND TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE IN ATHENS DURING THIS UNIQUE SPORTING EVENT AND TO ENJOY THE COMPETITION AT FIRST HAND WAS AMAZING. THE WHOLE TRIP WAS A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE, AND I WOULD LIKE TO THANK SAMSUNG FOR MAKING MY DREAMS A REALITY. I REALLY ENJOYED MEETING OLYMPIC HERO, CATHY FREEMAN.” — YVONNE HAUCK OF GERMANY, SAMSUNG ESSAY CONTEST WINNER

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The Olympic Games transcend sport, and the Olympic ideals represent universal human values. As the fundamental principles of Olympism embody the balance of body, will and mind, the Olympic Movement strives to blend sport with culture and education.

Olympic sponsors are partners in the effort to promote the Olympic ideals worldwide, to reinforce the connection between sport and culture, and to create initiatives that demonstrate that the Olympic ideals are relevant in all noble human endeavours. In Athens and around the world, art was an important element in this effort for several Olympic sponsors.
Heineken, a Grand National Sponsor of Athens 2004, also spread the meaning of the Olympic Games and the Olympic ideals through art. The company staged touring public exhibitions of a series of 28 Olympic events depicted in original works of art by Greek painter Dimitris Koukos. The paintings highlighted the integral relationship between art and athletics, and conveyed Heineken’s enthusiasm for participating in the world’s greatest event. Heineken developed the exhibit, which toured across Greece, to provide the public with an opportunity to experience the Olympic ideals of noble competition, winning spirit and virtue through art.

In June 2002, Swatch launched its Kaleidoscope project in Athens. The project invited Olympians, dignitaries, artists, celebrities and students from around the world to create art by arranging Olympic sports equipment and spare parts from Swatch watches on canvas. The project demonstrated Swatch’s relationship and commitment to the Olympic Movement and timing excellence, while celebrating the balance between sport and culture.

After a highly successful Kaleidoscope exhibit attracted thousands of visitors, Swatch planned a touring exhibit that would reach cities throughout the world and a silent auction to generate proceeds for a joint effort between UNICEF and the IOC to provide sport opportunities for youth in Rwanda. During the 2004 Olympic Games, the Kaleidoscope exhibit along Lyssiou Street in the Plaka drew visitors from around the world. Kaleidoscope culminated on 10 August at the Swatch Ionic Centre, where Swatch presented UNICEF with US$200,000 in proceeds from the project.

Visa invited 29 contest finalists to attend the 2004 Olympic Games from Brazil, Canada, China, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Mauritius, Mexico, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK and Ukraine. Accompanied by a parent or guardian, the finalists attended four Olympic events and participated in cultural activities including tours of the Parthenon and Acropolis, as well as visits to the coast and amusement parks. The finalists’ art was displayed during the Olympic Games in an exhibit at Polfis Park in Athens.

In Athens, Lu Li Han of China was selected as the Grand Prize winner of the Visa Olympics of the Imagination for her piece, “Dance on Staff”. She and one of her parents will attend the 2006 Olympic Winter Games in Turin as guests of Visa. Renowned Greek painter Dimitris Koukos selected the Grand Prize winner based on originality, imagination, artistic merit, and the interpretation of the Olympic theme.
Domestic sponsors are in a unique position to fulfill a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to engage the dynamic spirit of the Olympic Games within the host country. In the lead up to and during the Athens 2004 Olympic Games, Grand National Sponsors leveraged their Olympic investments and generated business results by developing unique programmes that brought the people of Greece — employees, consumers and potential customers — into close contact with the history, tradition and excitement of the Olympic Games.

Alpha Bank’s Panorama of Olympic Sports enabled people throughout Greece to share in the spirit of the Games by learning about and participating in Olympic sports. Launched in August 2001, the Panorama toured 64 Greek cities and the largest cities of Cyprus until June 2004. The exhibit included 11 Olympic sports — Baseball, Softball, Badminton, Shooting, Archery, Cycling, Weightlifting, High Jump, Fencing, Taekwondo, and Trampoline — under real conditions, with well-known athletes demonstrating the sports, informing the public about the rules, and encouraging people of all ages to test their own skill. The tour attracted hundreds of thousands of visitors and helped to spread the spirit of the Games throughout Greece in the years prior to the Athens 2004 Olympic Games.

The Panorama of Olympic Sports triggered a surge in subscribers for Alpha Bank credit cards and other products linked with the Olympic Games and enabled Alpha Bank to achieve measurable business results that far exceeded expectations.

“THE SPORTS PROMOTION EVENT HAS ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO SPECTACULAR GROWTH IN ALPHA’S YOUTH BANKING SCHEME, WHICH COVERS SAVINGS ACCOUNTS, INSURANCE, CREDIT CARDS AND LOANS. LAUNCHED A YEAR AGO, IT HAS SIGNED UP 39,000 CUSTOMERS, 40 PER CENT OF WHOM HAD NO PREVIOUS CONNECTION WITH THE BANK.” — FINANCIAL TIMES, 22 JUNE 2004

Alpha Bank also worked in partnership with Visa to offer its Olympic Games Gold Card. In turn, Alpha bank provided ATHOC with 20% of the subscription fee and 0.5% of the value of purchases made with the card. Alpha Bank’s Epathlon card — named after the ancient Greek word for a prize in a sports event — was issued in partnership with OTE and its mobile subsidiary COSMOTE, domestic sponsors of Athens 2004. The card offered subscribers a reward equivalent to 0.75% of the value of purchases to be spent onboing services from the three sponsors.

Alpha Bank’s Olympic Games Gold Card issued in partnership with Visa attracted more than 110,000 subscriptions by June 2004, against a target of 30,000.

Alpha Bank’s Epathlon reward cards attracted more than 120,000 customers by June 2004.
The full scope of the Olympic festival offers sponsors the opportunity to engage the public through support for associated events and programmes that bring the spirit of the Games to places far beyond the host country. Through the Athens 2004 Olympic Torch Relay and other programmes, sponsors touched millions of consumers throughout the world.

The Coca-Cola Company and Samsung presented the Athens 2004 Olympic Torch Relay, the first truly global Olympic torch relay in history, sharing the spirit of the Games with millions of people around the world as the Olympic flame toured 27 countries on all five land masses represented by the Olympic rings — Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and Oceania. Both companies contributed not only to the staging of the torch relay, but also to build awareness of and excitement for the event, to involve local residents and community heroes in carrying the flame, and to enhance the experience for the public in each city.

In every international city that the Olympic flame visited, Coca-Cola helped local residents welcome the relay with fan festivities, live entertainment and special video presentations at nightly city celebrations. During the 36 days of the relay, Coca-Cola caravan crews distributed to spectators free beverages and a total of more than one million collectible celebration flags, customised for each date in each relay city.

At Olympic venue post offices, ELTA provided Olympic visitors with the opportunity to have a personal stamp created, with one’s own image printed on a stamp that commemorated the Games. In cooperation with the International Olympic Philatelic Federation, ELTA organised the Olymphilex 2004 exhibition — the World Olympic Sports Stamp Exhibition, Coins and Memorabilia — held concurrently with the Olympic Games between 12 – 22 August 2004. Olymphilex 2004, part of the Cultural Olympiad, proved once again that philately embraces all nations and cultures in the spirit of the world’s greatest event.

ELTA held a special exhibition from August through October 2004 at the Athens Postal and Philatelic Museum. The exhibit, called “1896 – 2004 Olympic Stamps & Works of Art,” featured the world’s first Olympic stamps from 1896, and contrasted these with the work of contemporary Greek artists featured on the 2004 Olympic Games stamps.

“The sponsorship has helped rejuvenate the image of Greece’s largest private bank and given it an edge in acquiring new customers in an increasingly competitive market.” — Financial Times, 22 June 2004

In cooperation with the Hellenic Literary and Historical Archives Society, Alpha Bank organised the Olympic Memorabilia 1896 – 1956 travelling exhibition, which toured eight cities in Greece and Cyprus from April 2003 to May 2004. Designed to make the public more familiar with the history of the modern Olympic Games, the exhibition presented examples of the rich visual heritage of the Olympic Games with a series of documents, archive materials and photographs.

Aspiring to promote the spirit of the Olympic Games, OTE and COSMOTE created “Athnopolis”, a state-of-the-art roadshow that invited local and foreign visitors to experience through technology the Olympic Games atmosphere and share the Olympic values of participation, effort and celebration. After completing a three-year long journey in 50 Greek cities, “Athnopolis” landed in Athens and offered a spectacular Olympic tour to all its visitors through the creative use of its high technology applications.

ELTA created a comprehensive Olympic philatelic programme between 2000 and 2004. The programme included 18 stamp issues and 107 designs over that period. Subjects featured on the stamps included the ancient Olympics, Olympic venues, sports and sporting equipment, the Athens 2004 mascots, Olympic city views, modern art and a joint issue co-created with China. ELTA also helped to share the spirit of the Games through these philatelic programmes:

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The company made a strong effort to build a connection between the torch relay and local youth in various countries. In Russia, Coca-Cola partnered with the Moscow Education Committee to identify deserving young athletes who would be given the chance to carry an Olympic torch. In Greece, the company created a promotion that offered five groups of Greek young adults the chance to travel to see the torch relay in another city. The “Follow the Flame” contest gave five winners the opportunity to invite four friends to go to Sydney, Beijing, Cairo, New York City or Amsterdam to witness the excitement of the Athens 2004 Olympic Torch Relay.

During the final segment of the relay — a five-week journey through Greece that culminated in the cauldron lighting at the Opening Ceremony — Coca-Cola invited young people throughout the host country to nominate their peers to be Olympic torchbearers as part of an overall focus on youth. Furthermore, some of the escort runners who accompanied the torchbearers along the Greek relay route were selected through Powerade programmes in association with local youth athletic organisations.

Samsung helped to generate publicity and interest in each city on the relay route, organised promotions and media events, recruited local celebrity torchbearers, and staged arrival and departure ceremonies in cooperation with city councils and National Olympic Committees. Samsung also helped to select a number of torchbearers, using a substantial marketing presence to find local individuals who best embody the Olympic ideals in their everyday lives. To share the Olympic experience with the non-torch relay cities, Samsung helped to select 200 torchbearers from Asia, Africa, South America and Central Europe to run on the island of Crete. Representing their respective countries, these torchbearers brought home the spirit of the Olympic Movement. The company selected Olympic gold medallist Cathy Freeman, Sydney 2000’s final torchbearer and one of Australia’s most admired athletes, to be its first torchbearer for the Athens 2004 Olympic Torch Relay as Samsung’s global athlete ambassador.

Samsung organised celebratory events that paid tribute to the local culture and heritage in each region — large-scale outdoor events, running festivals, road shows, and local community activities such as hospital visits by torchbearers. Through its involvement with the Community Task Force in each city, Samsung built relationships with local government and council officials, law enforcement agencies and emergency services, transport organisations, tourist offices, schools and local media to support torch relay activities.

Presenting the Olympic torch relay provided Coca-Cola and Samsung with meaningful opportunities to demonstrate their support for the Olympic Games and to touch millions of consumers with memorable experiences. The torch relay passed through cities with combined populations of more than 260 million and through countries with combined populations of more than four billion.

Sports Illustrated, a Worldwide Olympic Partner, brought the spirit of the Athens 2004 Olympic Games to the millions of readers of its renowned sports publications. Each week, SI surprises, entertains and informs readers by covering sports with authority, vigor and immediacy. While the company always maintains journalistic integrity in covering the Olympic Games, the spirit of the event was nevertheless captured with vibrant stories and vivid photography in its flagship magazine, Sports Illustrated, as well as in Sports Illustrated For Kids and on its SI.com web site. In 2004, SI created anticipation for the Games among its readers with its monthly “Inside the Olympics” column, the special Olympic Preview issue, and the Olympic Viewers’ Guide, and followed through with three issues of in-depth Olympic coverage in August. SI For Kids provided young readers with profiles of young Olympic athletes and catching-up stories of Olympians from recent Games.

Taking the concept of experiential marketing literally, Swatch brought its “Swatch Experience” interactive programme on a tour of as many as 23 countries and 12 Greek cities. The Swatch Experience let visitors test their skill in six Olympic disciplines — Weightlifting, Rowing, Football, Beach Volleyball, as well as a sprint and the 1,500m race in Athletics — and measure their strength, speed and abilities against those of Olympic athletes. During the Games, the Swatch Experience landed outside the lively Beach Volleyball venue at the Faliron Coastal Zone Olympic Complex, where visitors tested the speed of their serves against those of top Olympic Beach Volleyball players.

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Athens 2004 offered Olympic sponsors the opportunity to reach consumers — athletes, spectators and visitors — from around the world with programmes that helped to share the spirit of the Olympic Games festival on site at Olympic sports complexes and throughout the host region. Sponsor programmes at Athens 2004 became a significant part of the Olympic experience for all audiences and helped the sponsors communicate their support for the Games while attracting new customers from around the globe.

During the Games, the Kodak Digital Picture Center in the common domain area of the Athens Olympic Sports Complex helped Olympic spectators capture and share their Olympic memories with friends and family all over the world. At the Digital Picture Center, Olympic spectators previewed, selected and printed their photographs in the sizes and quantities they preferred, downloaded their digital images to Kodak Picture CDs, and uploaded their digital pictures to Kodak’s online photo services. Visitors to the Kodak Digital Picture Center also created personal photo pins that put their images on Kodak collectible pins for Athens 2004, creating a unique souvenir of the Games.

Beyond the Digital Picture Center, Kodak Backpackers provided a mobile vending service at the Athens Olympic Sports Complex and the Helliniko Olympic Complex to ensure that no one missed the opportunity to capture the Olympic experience through photography. Kodak also sold film, singleuse cameras, batteries and digital camera memory cards at Olympic concession outlets, as well as the Olympic Superstore. Finally, the Kodak Photo Shop in the Olympic Village provided products and services to the Olympic athletes.

Through these programmes, Kodak shared the spirit of the Games while attracting new customers from around the world and generating substantial sales volume:

- The Kodak Digital Picture Center at the Athens Olympic Sports Complex generated more than 33,000 prints from Olympic visitors’ digital cameras and mobile phones during the Games.
- The Kodak Digital Picture Center sold more than 230 digital cameras.
- Kodak sold more than 700 digital cameras, 19,000 Kodak PictureMaker kiosk prints, and 8,000 Kodak PictureCDs at the Kodak Photo Shop in the Olympic Village.

Kodak’s Olympic sponsorship also achieved one of its key local objectives — to drive broader digital penetration in Greece, especially Kodak PictureMaker kiosks. Starting from a base of zero two years ago, Kodak Greece has placed to date more than 330 Kodak PictureMaker kiosks, including establishing a storefront presence in Germanos consumer electronics stores.

The Falcon Water Plaza — a seaside plaza located at the Faliron Coastal Zone Olympic Complex beside the venues for Olympic Volleyball, Beach Volleyball, Handball, and Taekwondo — hosted entertainment, youth-oriented activities, programmes, events and showcases provided by worldwide and domestic Olympic sponsors Coca-Cola, Alpha Bank, Panasonic, Hyundai, OTE and COSMOTE.

Coke ON Air, a local music and TV show created by Coca-Cola Hellas, gave young people the opportunity to share their experiences of and thoughts about the Olympic Games with TV audiences throughout Greece. Developed in partnership with the television music channel MAD TV and the radio station Village FM, Coke ON Air originated from a specially constructed Coca-Cola television studio at the Water Plaza.

Continuing a tradition that began in 1988, Coca-Cola hosted the official Olympic pin trading site at Athens 2004. The Coca-Cola Official Pin Trading Center offered visitors more than 100 new pin designs to purchase and trade, including Coca-Cola’s popular Pin of the Day series.

Coca-Cola Radio provided audiences in the U.S. with the opportunity to hear live interviews and behind-the-scenes accounts of the festivities surrounding Athens 2004 and listen to guest visits by Olympic athletes, officials and other personalities. Top disc jockeys from 21 youth-oriented U.S. radio stations participated in Coca-Cola Radio, originating their programmes from state-of-the-art Coca-Cola Radio broadcast booths at Faliron Water Plaza.

“The Olympic games and Coca-Cola share an authentic and unifying spirit that connects people everywhere in Athens. We’re focused on providing special moments and experiences that bring people together and make their world just a little bit better. At the same time, we want to bring fun and excitement to this global celebration of humanity and to enable people — and especially youth — to feel they are part of the Olympic experience.” — Scott McCune, Vice President & Director, Worldwide Sports, Entertainment and Licensing, Coca-Cola.
The Xerox Ambassadors of Innovation programme invited innovative Olympians to speak for Xerox and share their Olympic experiences at product announcements, symposia, trade shows, Innovation Changes Your City, and other events.

Xerox also developed key initiatives to involve its employees in the spirit of the Games. In July 2004 the company unveiled a mosaic of 27,000 individual portraits of Xerox employees from more than 60 countries around the world. The mosaic — 115 feet wide and 58 feet tall, covering nearly three sides of Xerox’s six-story Athens headquarters — depicted an image of children at play, with the Athens 2004 theme of “Welcome Home” written in English and Greek.

One of the most valuable benefits of Visa’s Olympic sponsorship is the ability to provide its member banks with opportunities to get involved in the company’s Olympic programmes. Visa works with members around the world to directly benefit from this sponsorship by using the Visa Olympic marks, themes and premiums in marketing programmes. The success of Olympic-related programmes by Visa member banks and merchants testifies to the power and appeal of Olympic marketing.

For the Athens 2004 Olympic Games, 56 countries around the world embracing all six Visa business regions employed marketing campaigns and programmes with an Olympic theme.

In Europe alone, there were 17 national promotions and a further 70 members participating in Olympic activity. This resulted in more than 43 million pieces of Visa Olympic marketing material being distributed to cardholders.

During the Games, more than 58,000 merchants in the Attica area and the five other Olympic venue cities embraced the spirit of the Games by displaying 300,000 pieces of Visa point-of-sale material. This helped drive retail business and involve Visa’s merchants in the opportunities that the Olympic Games can bring. Throughout the Games, hundreds of retailers contacted Visa to acquire Visa signage and Olympic-branded materials, thereby confirming the efficacy and impact of Visa’s promotional efforts.

The Olympic spirit is relevant far beyond the 17 days of the Olympic Games. Olympic sponsorship has the power to become a significant attribute in a company’s overall identity and a substantial element in the corporate culture. The Athens 2004 Olympic sponsors developed important programmes that helped to define their brand, communicate their support for the Olympic Games, increase sales, and enhance employee morale by sharing the Olympic spirit with customers, employees and other constituents locally and around the world.

Xerox developed a comprehensive integrated marketing plan that used the company’s Olympic sponsorship as a vehicle for generating business results, with programmes designed to attract customers, increase sales and showcase Xerox technology.

Innovation Changes Your City was a multinational sales programme that integrated the company’s Olympic partnership with the theme of innovation in major cities in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Brazil and throughout Europe.

In 2004 Xerox staged 131 Innovation Changes Your City events in the U.S. alone.

The Olympic theme of the programme helped to attract nearly 6,700 customers to the events.
Delta, an Athens 2004 Grand National Sponsor for milk and ice cream products and one of the largest food manufacturing groups of companies in Greece, developed a system of programmes, events and promotions for customers, retail partners and employees. These activations helped to share the spirit of the Games with all of Delta’s constituents.

Delta’s internal activations, which began in 2001 with the signing of the sponsorship agreement with ATHOC, helped to strengthen employee morale, enhance the corporate culture and convey the company’s objective’s for supporting the Olympic Games.

Delta distributed its first Olympic pins to all employees to share the vision of the company’s Olympic sponsorship and to acknowledge each employee’s contribution.

Delta Ice-Cream S.A. organised an excursion for all employees to Ancient Olympia — including the International Olympic Academy’s Conference Centre and Olympia’s Archaeological Site — to acknowledge the efforts of all employees, to strengthen the employees’ team spirit, and to share with them the significance of sponsoring the Athens 2004 Olympic Games.

Official Olympic souvenirs were offered to attendees at Delta Ice Cream’s New Year and the Secretaries Day celebrations, as well as to the children of employees who attended the company’s Christmas Children’s Day and summer camps.

From 2001 through the 2004 Olympic Games, Delta developed key programmes to strengthen relationships with business partners, retailers and consumers.

Delta used Olympic branding on product packaging, created special Olympic sections in the company’s Wonderland Club children’s magazine, and developed special promotions featuring the Athens 2004 mascots, Phevos and Athena.

In March 2003 Delta offered its retail partners the opportunity to win official Athens 2004 merchandise by reaching key sales targets and keeping their freezers and advertising material in top condition.

In 2004 Delta offered consumers the chance to win 50 hospitality packages and 1,000 tickets for the 2004 Olympic Games through ice cream purchases.

In June 2004 Delta staged the Clean Beaches project at 25 selected beaches in the five Olympic cities to raise the citizen environmental awareness and to ensure that the Games would be held in a cleaner Greece.

McDonald’s launched one of the most comprehensive global, host country and on-site efforts in the company’s 30-year history with the Olympic Games. Activities around the world showcased McDonald’s ongoing commitment to balanced, active lifestyles and its support of the spirit and ideals of the Olympic Movement.

For the first time in the history of McDonald’s Olympic sponsorship, 100% of its restaurants worldwide activated Olympic promotions. In 2004 McDonald’s shared the Olympic spirit with each of the 47 million consumers per day who visit the company’s 30,000 restaurants in 119 countries around the world.

16 countries throughout Europe, including Greece, featured an exclusive Go Active! Adult Happy Meal programme during the Olympic Games period. The Go Active! Adult Happy Meal included a gourmet salad, a bottle of water, and a stepometer.

McDonald’s Australia offered an Olympic-themed Happy Meal as well as special Olympic-related activities, packaging and restaurant décor.

McDonald’s China offered an Olympic-themed promotion featuring Olympic athlete images and special beverage cups.

McDonald’s USA featured Olympic-themed designs on packaging, trayliners, special menu items and new Olympic advertising.
In the world of business, Olympic Games hospitality is the invitation of a lifetime. It provides companies with the opportunity to strengthen business relationships by rewarding employees, recognizing top salespeople, thanking key customers, and developing new partnerships in an unmatched setting at the world’s greatest event.

Sports Illustrated’s hospitality programme invited more than 850 guests to the Athens 2004 Olympic Games, offering the company a chance to celebrate its 50th anniversary in a magnificent Olympic setting, to entertain major advertisers, to host Olympians, and to throw four of its renowned Olympic Games parties for Olympic Family members, Olympic sponsors and U.S. Olympians.

Swatch hosted 340 people, including partners, executives and key media at the Athens 2004 Olympic Games, where all saw the company’s timing and scoring technology thrive under the toughest tests at the world’s greatest sporting event.

Atos Origin, likewise, showed off its technology contribution to nearly 500 hospitality guests, many of whom represented the company’s key business-to-business customers, with tours of the Athens 2004 Technology Operations Centre.

Conducted under the theme of “From our Golden Past – to our Brilliant Future,” Kodak’s hospitality programme offered 600 guests from 36 countries the chance to see Olympic events, of course, but also to observe the company’s Olympic Games contributions at work through tours of the Kodak Image Center, the Olympic Polyclinic and the Kodak Digital Stores in the Olympic Village and the Athens Olympic Sports Complex. The experience helped the company strengthen business relationships, cultivate new partnerships, and demonstrate its corporate vision and capabilities to key customers.

100% of Kodak’s guests rated their experience at the Olympic Games as very good or excellent.

89% said that they gained a better understanding of Kodak’s vision of the future.

89% said they became more aware of Kodak’s products and services.

97% reported a favorable or very favorable impression of Kodak following Athens 2004.

McDonald’s celebrated the spirit of the Olympic Games throughout the course of 2004 by implementing an Employee Spirit Campaign to generate awareness and excitement surrounding the company’s sponsorship. Global guidelines were provided to countries where McDonald’s does business with templates for incorporating the Olympic rings into appropriate vehicles like business cards and company letterhead, as well as raising the Olympic flag at each restaurant. The company also held an inspirational Olympic Spirit Day for employees with legendary Olympian Carl Lewis, and even staged a special employee Olympics prior to the start of the Athens Games.

To share the Olympic experience with its top restaurant employees from around the world, McDonald’s brought its Olympic Champion Crew of 400 staff from 35 countries to Greece to help serve athletes, spectators and media at McDonald’s Olympic venue sites. The crew, ranging in age from 18 to 65, was selected in recognition of outstanding job performance based on the Olympic values they share with the athletes: teamwork, excellence and personal best. The morning of the Athens 2004 Opening Ceremony, McDonald’s held a special skills exhibition to showcase the crew to an audience of worldwide media at the Main Press Center. IOC President Jacques Rogge congratulated the crew on their achievements, and Olympic champions Venus Williams and Janet Evans cheered on the teams as they competed to build the best Big Mac sandwiches.

Several Athens 2004 Grand National Sponsors found key ways to involve employees in the spirit of the Games:

Alpha Bank selected 500 of the bank’s own staff to participate in the Athens 2004 volunteer programme.

More than 500 ELTA employees worked at post offices at the Olympic Village, the Main Press Centre, the International Broadcast Centre, the Athens Olympic Sports Complex common domain, Helliniko common domain, ancient Olympic, and the Olympic Family hotels during the Games. The employees offered a wide range of postal services and Olympic philatelic products to the athletes, the media and the spectators while gaining valuable experience.

John Hancock conducts an on-site hospitality programme at each Olympic Games to host key selling partners and to help showcase the company’s strong involvement in the Olympic Movement. To help manage and operate the company’s Athens 2004 hospitality programme, John Hancock selected a team of 24 top-performing associates as volunteers. The volunteers were chosen following a highly selective nomination, selection and training process. At the Athens 2004 Olympic Games, they participated in the experience of a lifetime, learning more about the company’s vision for its Olympic sponsorship and its associated marketing programmes, and serving as frontline goodwill ambassadors to key constituents and business partners.

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CREATING AN OLYMPIC LEGACY

The Olympic Movement has long sought to ensure that the Olympic Games demonstrate a responsible concern for the natural environment, so that the event leaves its surroundings cleaner than it found them. Throughout the past decade, the International Olympic Committee has regarded the environment to be the third dimension of Olympism, alongside sport and culture. In that spirit, the Athens 2004 Olympic sponsors created a legacy of environmental awareness and conservation efforts.

Before the Games, Coca-Cola Hellenic, the Athens Organising Committee and the United Nations Environment Programme collaborated on an advertising campaign to raise local awareness of the need to protect the Greek environment during the Olympic Games. The campaign also served to familiarise residents with the Athens Organising Committee's dual-bin recycling programmes for beverage containers and waste materials in Olympic venue areas.

Coca-Cola placed a copper olive tree sculpture representing the values of the Athens 2004 Olympic Games in Faliron Water Plaza. During the Games, Athenians, Olympic visitors, Olympic officials and others were invited to add personalised bronze leaves to the olive tree sculpture to complete the monument. Coca-Cola donated the completed monument, called “Olive Tree, the Tree of Athens,” created by Aggelos Panagiotides, to the city of Athens as part of the environmental legacy of Athens 2004.

Kodak established and managed the first-ever battery recycling programme at the Olympic Games, designed specifically to minimise the overall environmental impact of the Olympic Games and the influx of hundreds of thousands of visitors to the city of Athens. Kodak organised and operated a recycling programme for the collection and proper handling of used batteries, with collection boxes at all of the company’s retail sites at the Athens 2004 venues. Schenker A.E., an official provider for Athens 2004, transported the collected batteries to approved facilities for ultimate disposition. Providing an environmentally sound approach for disposing of the thousands of batteries visitors used during the event, the programme ran for the duration of the Games and ultimately collected and recycled more than a cubic ton of used batteries — enough to encircle the track at the Olympic stadium 12 times.

The impact of Olympic sponsor programmes often resonates long after the cauldron is extinguished at the Closing Ceremony. Many Olympic sponsors make contributions that reach beyond the 17 days of the Olympic Games, continuing to enhance the host city’s environment or improve the quality of life for its inhabitants. Others create special programmes, make gestures of goodwill, or donate gifts to honour the host city and commemorate the celebration of the Games. Still others reach beyond the host city with enduring reminders of the Olympic spirit that work to better the lives of people in other parts of the world.

The Athens 2004 sponsors, Worldwide Olympic Partners and Grand National Sponsors alike, made significant contributions that will provide a lasting Olympic legacy for Greece and the world. This is a unique phenomenon in the world of sport — a testament to the Olympic values and the sponsors that uphold them.
Playroom, donated for use by the hospital’s young patients and their families, was opened on 26 August, during the 2004 Olympic Games. Ronald McDonald House Charities creates, finds and supports programmes that directly improve the health and well being of children worldwide. Anichti Agalia, a Greek charitable organisation, will manage the playroom at Pendeli Hospital.

“McDonald’s has a long history of giving back to the communities in which we do business. This playroom will serve as a legacy, celebrating the goodwill brought about during the Athens 2004 Olympic Games.” — Ilias Malamas, Managing Director, McDonald’s Hellas

While most Olympic legacy programmes leave a lasting impact upon the host city or nation, Swatch created a legacy for another part of the world with its Kaleidoscope project. As Swatch provided US$200,000 to UNICEF, that organisation in turn will use those proceeds in Rwanda for peace education and HIV/AIDS prevention, as part of its sports for development programmes. These UNICEF programmes — created in partnership with the International Olympic Committee, the Athens Organising Committee, Right To Play and International Sports Federations — are intended to promote sport, recreation and play as a means of achieving greater health, equality and peace for all.

Grand National Sponsors OTE, COSMOTE and OTEnet have ensured that nearly 80% of the telecommunications infrastructure and networks that the companies provided for the Athens 2004 Olympic Games will remain in place and in use after the Games. This contribution provided flawless communications at peak times during the Athens 2004 Olympic Games for Athenians as well as millions of additional visitors, including spectators, officials, staff, volunteers and athletes, all of whom relied heavily on telecommunications to make things happen. It is a legacy that has significantly upgraded and will continue to enhance the quality of telecommunications services throughout Athens for many years to come.

In the spirit of the Olympic Games, sponsors created legacy programmes to honour the host city and to commemorate Athens 2004 with gifts to better the lives of those in need.

To provide a meaningful legacy to the city of Athens in the spirit of the Olympic Games, the McDonald’s Corporation and Ronald McDonald House Charities made their first-ever donation of a playroom at Pendeli Pediatric Hospital in Athens. The Ronald McDonald Open Arms

Sponsor products and services are often part of the Olympic Games legacy, as they can provide improved infrastructure and advanced technology within the host country for years to come.

In addition to Kodak’s environmental efforts, the company also will leave a technological legacy to Athens with its digital medical imaging equipment. The vast majority of digital imaging equipment and applications that Kodak contributed to the Olympic Polyclinic before the Games was purchased by ATHOC and donated to that medical facility. It is not only a testament to the high quality of Kodak’s technology, but also an important contribution to the advancement of the healthcare industry in Greece.

“For the Greek healthcare community, this will probably be the most significant introduction of technology this market has ever seen…. The fact that the Organising Committee is purchasing most of it as a legacy to the Games will affect very positively the Greek healthcare system for years to come.” — Greg Walker, Director & Divisional Vice President, Alliance & Presence Marketing, Kodak

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