



Media Release

Lucerne, 22 October 2019

Stoos will be the venue for the Winter Universiade 2021 alpine ski events

The alpine ski races of the Winter Universiade 2021 will be held in Stoos. As a special highlight, the Parallel Mixed Team competition is planned as an evening event on the Maggiweid piste. At the Lucerne 2021 Winter Universiade there will be competitions in a total of ten disciplines at seven venues.

The Winter Universiade alpine ski competitions will be held in Stoos (Canton Schwyz) from the 21 to the 31 January 2021. Following the withdrawal of Hoch-Ybrig as a venue, Urs Hunkeler, Managing Director of the Lucerne 2021 Winter Universiade, is delighted to present Stoos as an attractive alternative: "Stoos is a very good solution for us. On the one hand it is an attractive ski resort, and on the other we can count on a strong and experienced team." The newly formed local organising committee in Stoos will be headed by Peter Föhn, Schwyz State Council Member and President of the Swiss Alpine Skiing Championships in 2019. Ueli Pfyl, Technical Director of the Swiss Alpine Ski Championships 2019, will act as Chief of Competition. The Stoos railways company Stoosbahnen AG will be responsible for providing the infrastructure.

The Parallel Mixed Team Event will be a special highlight

Together with Karl Lustenberger, Sports Director of the Lucerne 2021 Winter Universiade, the International University Sports Federation FISU and other partners, Peter Föhn and his team have been examining the feasibility of this project in detail over the past few weeks. Looking back on this intensive work, Peter Föhn remarked: "We have reached the conclusion that we can organise excellent ski races here for the Winter Universiade 2021." An important factor in the success of the competitions is the compact organisation: the disciplines Super-G, Giant Slalom, Slalom and the Alpine Combination will all be held on the Franz-Heinzer-Piste. The only event not scheduled to take place on this piste is the Parallel Mixed Team Event, which will be held as an evening event on the Maggiweid piste near the Stoos funicular mountain station in the immediate vicinity of the village. The Stoosbahnen AG representative Bruno Lifart is convinced: "This will be a very special highlight."

The Stoosbahnen AG has a strong commitment to top-class sport

After Stoos was considered in an earlier project phase, Bruno Lifart is very pleased that Stoos will now be one of the venues for the largest winter multisport event for students: "For the Stoosbahnen AG, our involvement is a clear commitment to top-class sport." Compared with spring 2018, when the decision was taken not to hold the competitions here, circumstances have changed: "In particular, we were able to commission the new Stoos funicular successfully. The

success we have had with this steepest funicular railway in the world gives us confidence to tackle new projects."

Seven venues in Central Switzerland and Lenzerheide

With the designation of Stoos as a venue, both the locations and sports facilities for the Winter Universiade 2021 have now been finally defined:

Location	Sports Venue	Discipline(s)
Andermatt-Realp	Realp Nordic Center	Cross-Country Skiing
Engelberg	Sporting Park	Curling
	Jochpass 2222	Snowboard, Freestyle Skiing
Lenzerheide	Biathlon Arena Lenzerheide	Biathlon, Ski-OL
Lucerne	Regional Ice Center	Figure Skating, Short Track
Stoos	Franz-Heinzer-Piste / Maggiweid	Alpine Skiing
Sursee	Sursee Ice Center	Ice Hockey
Zug	Bossard Arena	Ice Hockey

"The Swiss public and international guests expect an attractive programme in January 2021," notes Andreas Barraud, member of the board of directors of the Winter Universiade Lucerne-Central Switzerland 2021 association and representative of the Cantonal Councillor Schwyz. He continued: "We are very pleased that Stoos in Canton Schwyz has been selected as the venue for the exciting competitions of the alpine ski events."

New Swiss-Ski Managing Director involved

Swiss-Ski is involved in the organisation of five different sports. The new managing director Bernhard Aregger is actively engaged in the organising committee of the Winter Universiade, thereby contributing the extensive know-how of the national association to the committee. The Lucerne native is delighted that Stoos has been nominated as an alpine skiing venue: "With the selection of Stoos the Universiade has found an excellent venue for the traditional Swiss sport of alpine skiing."



The Winter Universiade

The Winter Universiade is the largest winter multisport event after the Olympic Games. In 2021 the 30th occasion of this unique event will take place in Central Switzerland and Lenzerheide. The organisation is a joint project of the six cantons of Central Switzerland Lucerne, Uri, Schwyz, Obwalden, Nidwalden and Zug, and the City of Lucerne. The programme from the 21 to the 31 January 2021 comprises ten sporting disciplines, to be contested at seven event venues. Students aged between 17 and 25 from more than 540 universities in 50 countries are expected to attend. A total of over 2500 individuals will take part.

More information about the Lucerne 2021 Winter Universiade may be found at

www.winteruniversiade2021.ch/en

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