

Skanska to build SEK 165 M football stadium in Helsinki

Skanska Oy, Skanska's Finnish subsidiary, has been awarded a project-management assignment for a new, partly privately financed football arena in Helsinki. The project has a total value of FIM 110 M or approximately SEK 165 M.

Skanska Oy has the complete responsibility for the construction of the new arena which will have capacity for 11,000 spectators.

The customer is Helsingin Uusi Jalkapalloareena Oy, a privately owned company which will be responsible for the development of the project in cooperation with the City of Helsinki. The project is being financed with funds provided by the city of Helsinki, the Finnish state and private parties.

The Helsinki clubs Jokerit HC, Liiga-HJC and Jalkapallosäätiö will lease the football arena from Helsingin Uusi Jalkapalloareena Oy for ten years and pay lease costs in advance for the entire lease period. The money will be used to cover the construction costs. All football clubs in Helsinki will have access to the arena.

Harry Harkimo is the businessman behind Uusi Jalkapalloareena Oy and he was also the man who took the initiative to build the Hartwall Arena, which was constructed by Skanska Oy for the Ice Hockey World Championship in Helsinki in 1997.

In addition to the usual facilities for spectators, players and the press, the stadium will also have 36 VIP boxes.

Work on the new facilities at Töölö in central Helsinki is to begin immediately and is expected to be completed by June 2000.

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