Avalanche Protection for Rosa Khutor

Chris Stethem 1, Roger McCarthy 2

1 Chris Stethem & Associates Ltd., Canmore, AB, Canada; 2 RDM Resort Development and Management Consultants, Moscow, Russia

The 2014 Winter Olympics have been awarded to Sochi, Russia. The Alpine skiing venue will be the new ski area now being built at Rosa Khutor, above the village of Krasnaya Polyana. Planning and implementation of the avalanche protection program is an important part of the development given that the area is one of complex alpine terrain and multiple avalanche paths. Snow safety planning includes avalanche risk mapping, structural protection and explosive avalanche control. The explosive control program will include both fixed remote explosive systems and control teams on skis. The paper will be a visual tour of the terrain and the methodology to implement the avalanche protection to open the area.