

Kiwi ingenuity behind UCI BMX World Championships

On: 23 July 2013

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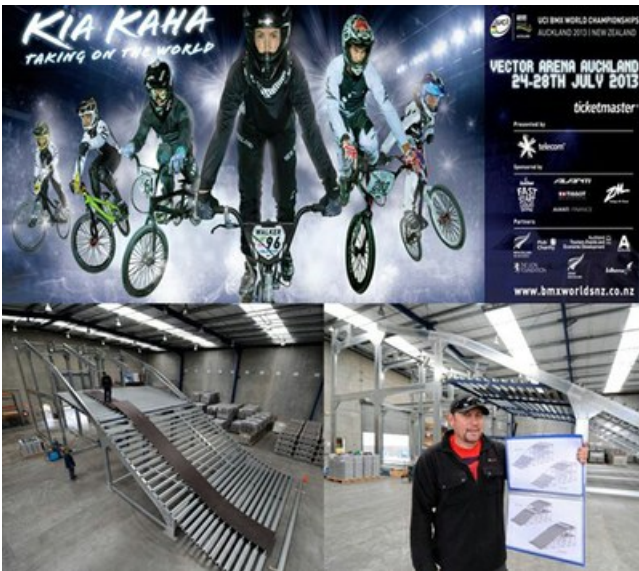


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The 32nd BMX World Championships, featuring over two thousand riders from 33 countries, will be staged in the world-class Vector Arena on Auckland's waterfront from 24-28 July.

Use of an indoor venue has created some interesting challenges for event organisers. The confines of Vector Arena meant there was insufficient room to build two separate ramps, meaning that the event's operations manager, Tony Takarua from Elite Racing Developments New Zealand had to come up with an innovative solution. "We came up with the concept of building a single split-level ramp structure with a longer platform for the 5m ramp," said Takarua. "After Challenge races, with the use of hydraulics, the 5m ramp is repositioned to 8m."

"We are really pleased with the concept. We have built and tested it out and I think this could become a blueprint for cities around the world that want to run the championships in indoor arenas."

Construction of the track in Vector Arena will take six days involving approximately 10,000 pallets and 60 truck and trailer loads of specially prepared dirt.