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## **Mission *Not* Impossible: Protect Olympians *and* Time Them Using Texas Instruments TIRIS**

ATLANTA June 1996.--What could be more American than depending on Texas Instrument's technology to ensure the safety of all 1996 Olympic athletes and officials *and* to time the marathons? Mission impossible this is not.

Texas Instruments TIRIS(TM) radio frequency identification (RFID) technology is at the heart of Olympic security as well as timing the men's and women's marathons.

### ***OLYMPIC SECURITY MEASURES TAP INTO TIRIS TECHNOLOGY***

Here are the stats that would give any security chief heartburn: eight athlete villages, more than 25 event sites, two million spectators, 400,000 daily visitors, 15,000 athletes from 100 countries, 185,000 officials and journalists. Security for the 1996 Olympics sounds like a nightmare just waiting for July 19.

Providing the best in security technology was a must for the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG). Working with a system touted as being "the next generation," Bill Rathburn, chief of security for the 1996 Olympics, says this will be "the most sophisticated security system that's ever been used in the history of the Olympic Games." Borrowing or stealing an ID won't get you into the Olympics this year.

Sensormatic Electronics Group of Deerfield Beach, FL, which is widely known for its anti-shoplifting technology, took the TIRIS card ID technology and combined it with the hand scanner developed by Recognition Systems of Campbell, CA. The remainder of the controlled access system—closed-circuit TV, access control, and electronic surveillance—makes this a system that is hard to beat.

TIRIS RFID transponder-based card IDs is at the heart of the security system. The unique automated identification system combines card IDs with biometrics devices. Any athlete or official gains entrance to a secured area by swiping the right palm under the scanner. The 3D image of the athlete or official must match the image of the hand that's been reduced to an ID code and stored in a chip in the card. The card ID stores data about

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the cardholder's hand. Card and cardholder are uniquely linked; the card ID cannot be used by anyone other than the cardholder.

The sophisticated TIRIS technology also enables security managers to group cardholders so that some will be denied access to certain more secured areas, such as the Olympic Villages.

### ***RACES TIMED USING TIRIS***

Another way the TIRIS technology is being used at the Olympics happens during the men's and women's marathons. TIRIS transponders fastened to each runner's shoe will give split second accuracy not only at the end of each race but also during it. Those of us sitting at our TVs or fortunate enough to be sweltering under the sun in the stadium can check the times of the racers at each 5K marker. And, officials can quickly weed out any cheaters that bypass the markers.

The starter's gun is not yet obsolete but racers are now not as dependent on it to determine their start times. With the ChampionChip timing system that uses the TIRIS RFID technology, the race starts for each runner when the tiny shoe tag containing an RFID transponder crosses over the mat at the start line. The mat is actually an antenna that sends a signal to activate the capacitor stored in the transponder attached to the shoe. Also stored in the transponder is a unique ID that is then sent to a host computer stored along with the exact time the runner was recognized at the start line.

Developed by ChampionChip BV of Nijmegen, The Netherlands, the system has already debuted successfully at such well-known races as the Boston Marathon (13,000 runners), the L.A. Marathon (20,000), and the Berlin Marathon (40,000). Many more races are already scheduled using the RFID technology.

Note to editor: TIRIS (Texas Instruments Registration and Identification System) is an advanced radio frequency ID technology that includes both passive, low frequency transponders, active, high frequency transponders, reader equipment and software. Applications, including automotive antitheft systems, vehicle identification, security access, and automatic logistics management, and electronic toll collection systems.

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