

HELPING DELIVER THE ROYAL WEDDING - TO A WORLDWIDE AUDIENCE OF OVER A BILLION



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EC HARRIS
BUILT ASSET
CONSULTANCY

EC Harris has worked with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) for over ten years.

The firm acts as the Ceremonial Works Manager at all major state occasions managed by the Department. This includes visits from foreign heads of state, Remembrance Sunday services and Trooping the Colour events, amongst many others.

In April 2011 the firm worked with The Royal Household and DCMS on the wedding ceremony of HRH Prince William of Wales and Miss Catherine Middleton, now The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

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Creating Solutions

The firm's initial involvement started in November 2010 when it was asked to join the small team planning the media logistics. With approximately 185 of the world's 200 countries broadcasting the ceremony to a global audience of one billion, this was extremely challenging.

All the relevant broadcasting organisations had exacting requirements and needed mobile studios as well as the infrastructure to support their production teams.

In total, over 200 media positions were needed along the ceremonial route between Westminster Abbey and Buckingham Palace. EC Harris also helped to project manage the set-up of the biggest media village ever seen in Green Park and the UK. This was a combined Home and International Media Compound, which was required to operate 24/7 to meet the demands of the Global news and media networks.

To successfully plan and deliver these positions required effective stakeholder relations with the Metropolitan Police, the Royal Households (both Buckingham Palace and Clarence House), the Greater London Authority, Westminster Council, the military, the Royal Parks and the media organisations themselves.

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EC Harris also co-ordinated all overlay infrastructure along the ceremonial route. This included project managing the implementation of the PA system - used to relay the ceremonial proceedings and for public safety announcements. It also included the flag flying, with the team providing procurement advice, project management, cost management and health and safety expertise.

The greatest challenge associated with the project was the pace of change. The team had to be fluid in making prompt robust decisions to satisfy the host of stakeholders and meet the deadline.

Adding Value

The team set up their project office in the middle of St James Park - this meant they could respond quickly to any issues along the ceremonial route.

Due to the rapid nature of change throughout the project, a dynamic approach to cost control was needed. The EC Harris team implemented robust governance to quickly capture any variations and to be able to provide 'real-time' cost information for DCMS and the production organisations.

The event was a huge success, with over one million people lining the streets of the ceremonial route. It attracted a significant increase in tourists and gave a much needed boost to UK PLC.



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