Regatta 2000

When Sydney won the bid to host the 2000 Olympic Games, it was imperative that all sites would be the best sites in the world, utilising the most sophisticated technology available. The Sydney International Regatta Centre (SIRC) was built as a venue to hold the rowing and canoeing events for the 2000 Olympics as well as the annual national titles and other high level events such as the "Head of the River".

Due to the success of Holman Engineering's Athletics, Diving, Water Polo and Synchronised Swimming systems that were developed for Sydney's other Olympic sites, Holman Engineering was invited to tender for the supply of the timing, display and event management systems for the SIRC. Holman Engineering's bid provided a complete integrated solution to all timing, display and event management needs. The bid proposed utilising mostly products and software that were specifically developed for this project by Holman Engineering.

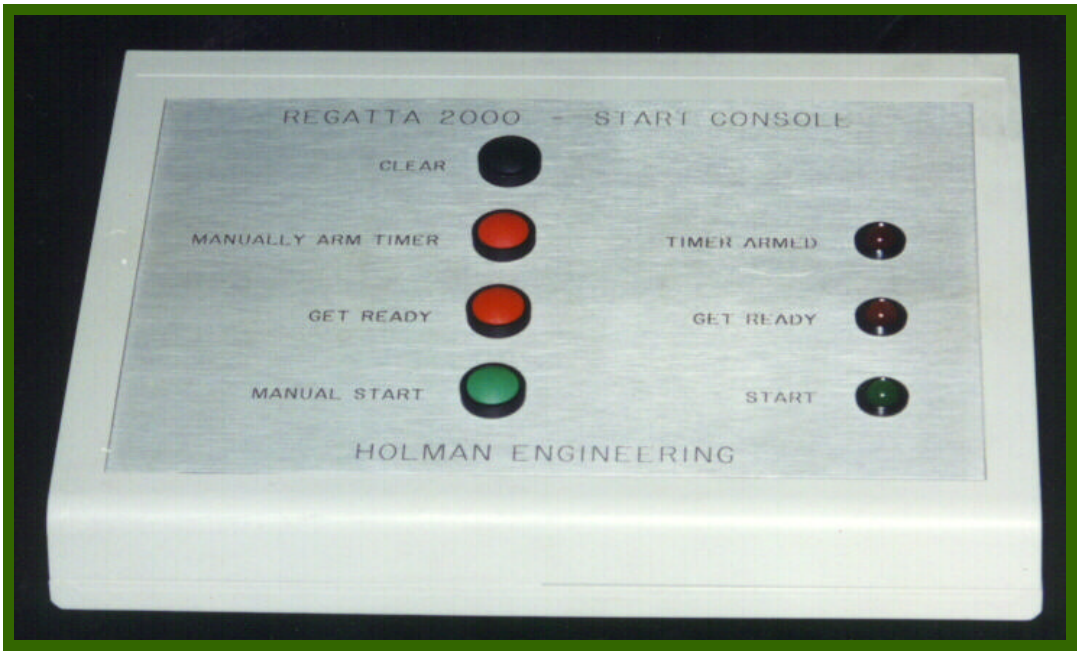
Below is a photo taken from the three story high finishing tower looking along the 2km course.

The SIRC was opened by the NSW Premier just prior to 1996 Rowing Nationals. At the opening was the chairman of FINA (the world rowing organisation). The chairman was extremely impressed with the level of technology and system integration at the SIRC. He said that the Regatta 2000 system was the best timing and display system in the world, even better than the system to be used in Atlanta for the 1996 Olympics.

Regatta 2000 Starting System

The Regatta 2000 starting system provides visual indication of the start with a traffic signal type arrangement, and audio indication of the start with a radio controlled speaker system. The radio controlled speaker is also used for the starting judge to communicate with the competitors as well as transmit a start tone. Below is a photo showing the starting systems in one of the nine lanes.

The start signal is generated by the Start Console by either pressing a button, or by firing a starting gun (the start gun signal is picked up automatically). Below is a photo of the start console.



False Start 2000

At the Sydney International Regatta Centre (SIRC) there was a need for a means of detecting whether competitors started before they were meant to (called a “False start”). Holman Engineering developed a PC based video system that processes images in real time. The camera is setup to view along the start line. The system detects the start signal and instantly provides the user with a full screen image of the competitors on the starting line which was captured a few thousandths of a second **before** the start signal was given. The images are able to be saved for viewing later (in the event of a protest).

Regatta 2000 Timing System

The timing system at the SIRC consists of an integrated digital photofinish and electronic system which is capable of timing two events at once. Each event is timed by both the photofinish and electronic systems. Sectional times are provided for each competitor at each quarter of the course. Below is a photo of the two digital photofinish cameras.

The results for each competitor (at each of the three sectional locations as well as the finish line) are sent to the scoreboards and the media for display to the television viewers instantly. Below is a photo of the timing console which does the timing as well as interfaces to the event management system, and the media.

Regatta 2000 Timing System

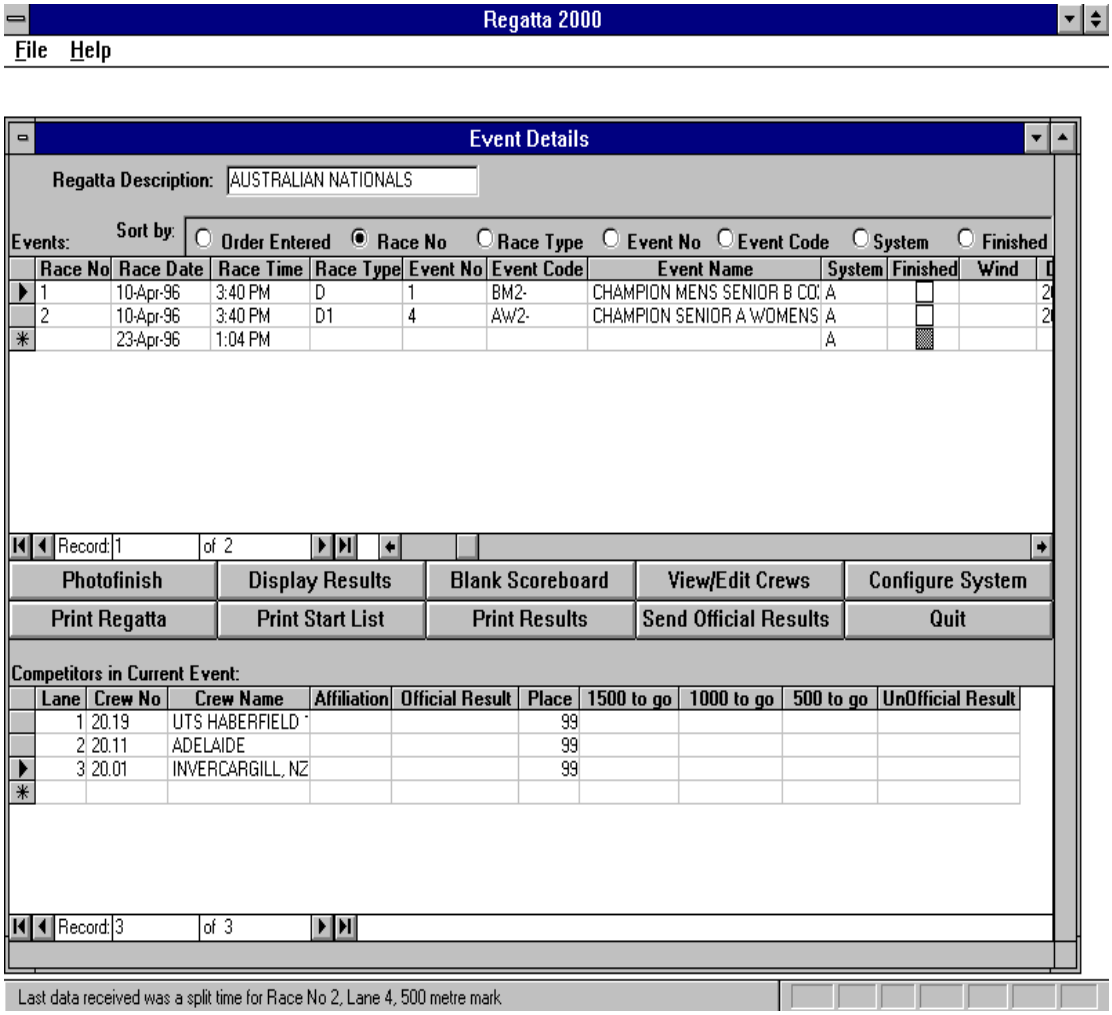
The Regatta 2000 timing system provides results instantly to the scoreboards as well as the media. Below is a photo of the two line scoreboard which is used to display instant results to the spectators on the near side of the river.

Below is a picture showing the full video scoreboard used on the far side of the river to show video images as well as display the results instantly which are provided by the Regatta 2000 timing system.

Regatta 2000 Event Management System

The event management system developed by Holman Engineering integrates all functions of the timing and display systems. The event management system comprises windows based software which communicates with the timing and display systems as well as providing a direct feed to the media. The system is very easy to use, yet very powerful. It allows the user to control what is display on the scoreboards and what is sent to the media, as well print out reports (ie start lists, results etc).

Below is one of the screens of the Regatta 2000 software. The software receives all results (including each competitors sectional times) and puts them into the database without interfering with what the operator is doing. As these results are automatically processed, the bottom line of the screen tells the user what has been processed. All information receipt and dispatch is done automatically (as a background task) providing completely up to date information to the operator at all times.



Regatta 2000 Display System

Holman Engineering developed a master clock/claims system and a system of networked signs to display the time and event details to both competitors and spectators at the Sydney International Regatta Centre. The system included 11 signs ranging from 4 metre long ones as seen below to small 50mm high signs.

All signs are driven and controlled from the Clock/Claims console shown below. This console allows the user to individually configure each sign on the network as to whether to display the time or the next event details. Each sign and the Clock/Claims console can be plugged into any of the 12 locations on the 3 km long network.