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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIS MEDIA INFO

Excellent Alpine Worlds close in Garmisch-Partenkirchen

After thirteen days of top level sports action and excitement filling the tribunes and the town center alike, the FIS Alpine World Ski Championships 2011 in Garmisch-Partenkirchen closed on Sunday, 20th February. New stars were born during the eleven competitions, whilst some long-established champions achieved the crowning of their careers and others saw their shine dim.

Altogether, eleven nations won medals as Austria returned to the top of the medals table with eight medals of which, thanks to its strong ladies team, four were golden. Behind Austria, France claimed 2nd place with four medals ahead of Italy whose strong men's team featured the only triple medalist at GAP 2011, Christof Innerhofer, who captured one medal of each color. The ladies queen of GAP 2011 was the speed double world champion Elisabeth Görgl who won both downhill and super-G.

In closing, FIS President Gian Franco Kasper highlighted the excellently organized championships and especially noted the unique spectator atmosphere. Some 130'000 spectators attended the 11 competitions and the official opening ceremony; whilst 50'000 visited the World Championship Park to create a wonderful atmosphere for the evening ceremonies.

"I have tried to find critical points but could not find them", praised President Kasper. "Excellent work was done during the last five years, every detail was perfectly organized. Spectators were great, in attendance from A to Z and supporting the competitors from all nations, which could not be taken for granted."

The immaculate German planning not only extended to the competitions but also to the weather. Punctually 10 minutes after the official closing ceremony, the snowfall began and there is now again a beautiful white blanket of snow covering the resort of Garmisch-Partenkirchen.

"The 'Festival in the Snow' was a success from both national and local points of view," stated President of the German Ski Association and FIS Council Member Alfons Hörmann. "Our goal was to promote the national rebirth of Alpine Skiing in Germany. GAP 2011 was an

important step on this road. The "Festival in the Snow," underlined Hörmann, "was not only a poster slogan, but an objective which came to be filled with life".

Managing director of GAP 2011 Organizing Committee Peter Fischer announced the official spectator numbers: "Our total budget for tickets was exceeded by ten per cent and additionally there were 50'000 visitors at the Championship Park. This proves that Garmisch-Partenkirchen and the region are worthy organizers of FIS World Championships."

Fischer added: "The feared traffic chaos was avoided; most visitors used the free of charge transport. There were few logistical problems and no problems with the traffic."

Fischer also drew also a very personal balance: "For me the World Ski Championships in Garmisch-Partenkirchen are a dream fulfilled. I am personally very satisfied and very thankful to my whole team and would particularly like to express sincere thanks to the 1300 volunteers."

Facts and Figures

- 130'000 spectators at the races
- 50'000 visitors in the Championships Park
- 2'195 accredited media representatives
- 1'300 volunteers
- 469 athletes
- 67 nations
- About 3 % more worldwide TV viewers (provisional number) than Val d'Isère 2009

The FIS Alpine World Ski Championships 2013 will be held in Schladming (AUT) from 4th-17th February 2013.

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About FIS

Founded in 1924 during the first Olympic Games in Chamonix, France, the International Ski Federation (FIS) aims to promote the sport of skiing and snowboarding and directs the development of all ski and snowboarding activities world-wide. FIS administers the Olympic disciplines of Alpine Skiing, Cross-Country Skiing, Ski Jumping, Nordic Combined, Freestyle Skiing and Snowboarding, including setting the international competition rules. With the help of its 112 member nations (one currently suspended), it stages more than 6'000 ski and snowboard competitions annually. FIS also makes recommendations for recreational skiing and snowboarding in the interest of all and promotes play in the snow as a healthy leisure activity for children and the youth. For more information, please visit www.fis-ski.com.

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