

press release

## THE TELEMARK WORLD CUP IS STARTING TOMORROW IN LA THUILE

*La Thuile, January 19<sup>th</sup> 2019* – Everything is ready in **La Thuile** for the opening of the **Telemark World Cup**. This is a nice recurrence for the valdôtain town, which already hosted the event in 2017. Tomorrow the athletes will compete in the Sprint discipline, whereas on Monday they will face the Classic discipline.

Today the athletes had the chance of trying what we can call the most thrilling point of the route, the jump located in the last part of the track that allows the athletes to 'fly' for almost 20 metres. **Killy Martinet, the president of the Funivie Piccolo San Bernardo**, proudly affirms: *"The experience we had during the last edition of the Telemark World Cup and during the Ladies Ski World Cup was fundamental. We acquired some specific competences and, thus, we can try and do our best. The slope was carefully prepared thanks to a staff which particularly focused on the jump in the final part of the track and on the parabolic which we will see in the parterre area of the 3 – Franco Berthod ski slope. The snow is perfect. Now we are ready, let the show begin!"*.



Proud and satisfied **Dante Berthod, FIS Counselor**, who says: *"Our passion for the snow is total. The act of hosting the Telemark World Cup is a confirm of the trust the FIS gave to the community of La Thuile. We strongly work to make La Thuile definitely enter in the circuit of world cups, both for the ski and the telemark disciplines"*.

Speaking about the slope, **Corrado Garino – responsible of the races and of the slopes** – affirms: *"The 3 – Franco Berthod ski slope is really tough, it has some important gradients which we hardly find in telemark. The athletes do know it, and thus in the last few weeks we saw some teams coming to La Thuile to try both the snow and the slope. Now we will see how they will face it"*.

**The first manche of the Sprint race will start tomorrow at 10am.** The departure is at 1.680 m above the sea level. The track starts from Alpe Planey, where the athletes will have to perform cross-country skiing. After that, they will have to face the descent of the 3 – Franco Berthod ski slope, along a giant slalom track; finally, they will try the final jump and the parabolic before reaching the winning post and a cross-country skiing ring.

**The second manche will be at 1pm.**

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49 athletes, 14 women and 35 men, will compete and represent 9 nations: Italy, France, Germany, the USA, Slovenia, Great Britain, Russia, Norway and Switzerland. Forecasts are hard to make: Philippe Lau (France) will try to defend his title, whereas between women there will be a sort of scrimmage between the Swiss Amelie Reymond and the German champion Johanna Holtzman. In the Italian team, after this last race Davide Dallago will bid the last farewell to the races.

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