

# Sounding good for 2010

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Soccer lovers at the FIFA 2010 World Cup matches will experience a stadium sound sensation, thanks to new state-of-the-art audio systems. Prosound, the company commissioned with integrating the sound systems at the venues for the matches, says even the loudest vuvuzelas won't be a match to the clarity of the sound to be produced at the stadiums.

Grant Scott, head systems engineer at Prosound, says he has already worked on nine match and practice stadiums, including Orlando Stadium in Soweto, which was re-opened last year after going through stringent refurbishments for the tournament.

"Orlando is not completely done and dusted, although the opening games went well; Loftus [Versfeld stadium in Pretoria] is 90% complete, Bloemfontein and Ellis Park are also quite far advanced," said Scott.

Other stadiums that he has worked on include the Royal Bafokeng stadium in the North West province, Ellis Park in Johannesburg, Mbombela in the Mpumalanga province, Nelson Mandela Bay stadium in the Eastern Cape and Green Point stadium in Cape Town.

Scott is confident that by the time the stadiums are given a clean bill of health at the end of this year, the sound will be crisp and ready. "I think we're going to do it. We're South African - we did it with the cricket, we did it with the rugby. I'm confident we will get there. The Confederations Cup stadiums that we are busy with are in a pretty good state of readiness."

"There were no problems at the German World Cup, and hopefully there will be none here. The integration of modern sound systems is so seamless there shouldn't be any problems," he says.

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