

A company from Chiclana in Cadiz makes the “El Gordo” draw lottery drum

LOCATION: Chiclana de la Frontera (Cádiz)

VTR: 1'48”

SUMMARY: One of the lottery drums for the El Gordo draw was made in the coastal town of Chiclana (Cádiz) five years ago. It was ordered as it had to contain 100.000 numbered balls, a quantity so high that would not fit in the century and a half old drum that the lottery commission had used till then which only had to hold 66.000 balls. Fluidmecánica Sur, apart from making this drum, has manufactured a twin drum as well and a smaller one, which are held at the Spanish Royal Mint as a reserve. The company is also responsible for the maintenance and for the technical assessing during the most important draw of the year.

VTR:

There they are. The drums that bring luck to life are now ready for the most important draw of the year, the Xmas draw or El Gordo de Navidad. These men in green are responsible for its functioning and this one is Paco, one of the men who with his own hands made this Titan full of dreams.

FRANCISCO JAVIER CANTO
FLUIDMECÁNICA SUR TEAM CHIEF

“It is a unique job. Not everyone gets to build lottery drum”

The lottery drum, from where El Gordo is drawn, was built five years ago in a factory in Chiclana de la Frontera, a town in the coast of Cadiz. It was made by a specialized naval engineering mechanics company.

RAFAEL VALLEJO
FLUIDMECÁNICA SUR PROJECT CHIEF

“it is like a meccano set, small pieces that have to be assembled one by one... they all need to be aligned, equally separated from each other and the right measurement...”

FRANCISCO JAVIER CANTO
FLUIDMECÁNICA SUR TEAM CHIEF

“It took three men about six months to assemble”

2011 has been the first year that the draw has included 100.000 numbers; before there were only 66.000 that is why the drum had to be 20cm wider than its predecessor.

FRANCISCO JAVIER CANTO
FLUIDMECÁNICA SUR TEAM CHIEF

“All the balls have to be shuffled inside, hence the necessity to broaden its diameter to ensure that all balls get the same amount of rotation”

That is how the random release of the numbered balls is guaranteed, one of the many technical matters that experts have to guard during the draw.

RAFAEL VALLEJO
FLUIDMECÁNICA SUR PROJECT CHIEF

“We always want the draw to end soon. Particularly we want the first prize to come out soon, that way the tension is slightly released”



FRANCISCO JAVIER CANTO
FLUIDMECÁNICA SUR TEAM CHIEF

"We get nervous and that is something normal, but once the draw is over we shake hands and comment on what a good job we've done!"

Made out of bronze and brass, it has 450 meridians held by more than 3.000 screws. A gigantic 500 kilograms sphere... it is a lot, but not as much as what it gives in the morning of the twenty second of December.

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