Sports Arena Case Study

“The Customer - Nokia Cup
The Nokia Cup is a major regional curling event, attracting thousands of participants, spectators and media. The 2002 Nokia Cup was hosted in Belleville, Ontario, located an hour east of Toronto.

The Challenge
Like many arenas, the one hosting the Nokia Cup was constructed largely of concrete and metal, which effectively blocks all outside signals. Event organizers were relying on cell phones for communication throughout the tournament. The 120,000 square foot area requiring coverage included the playing surface, spectator areas, and underground locker rooms. A rapidly deployable solution was needed to accommodate the sudden influx of people into the arena.

“Spotwave has ensured that organizers, officials, media and spectators have access to the instant communications they demand. The simple, rapid installation allowed us to meet the needs of the tournament.”

Doug Bakes
Ontario Curling Association
The Solution

A site evaluation was conducted throughout the arena to determine the best solution. Four SpotCell® 100 indoor coverage systems were deployed - two Coverage Units were mounted on a catwalk above the playing surface, providing signals throughout the main part of the building, and two other units were placed in the hallway below the stands to cover the locker rooms and tunnel. The Coverage Units were small and unobtrusive, and were positioned near the ceiling. The Donor Units were deployed outside, directed toward two base stations. The complete installation took less than one hour per unit.

The Results

Before the SpotCell® 100 systems were installed, cell phone users clustered outside the building entrance to make calls. As installation was complete, calls could then be made and received inside, with strong signals and clear reception. Players, media and spectators benefited from instant, reliable, clear connections. The Nokia Cup organizing committee was very pleased with the Spotwave solution, which made facilitation of the event much simpler.