

Facts & Figures: Skill and hard work are required, both to win and to create Zürich 2014 medals

How many medals will be needed?

237 medals, or 79 sets of gold, silver, and bronze medals, have been ordered by the LOC of the European Athletics Championships Zürich 2014.

Who designed the Zürich 2014 medals?

Alfredo Häberli, a Zurich based industrial designer, drafted the medals. His work was inspired by Letzigrund Stadium, the championship venue.

Where will the medals be manufactured?

Faude & Huguenin SA, a manufactory based in Le Locle, will produce all championship medals.

How are suitable medals for prestigious events, such as the European Athletics Championships Zürich 2014, made?

Making medals involves a large number of working steps. Faude & Huguenin SA mint their products manually. Turning a blank into a medal requires the following process:

Step 1: A model is shaped on the basis of the designer's sketches. Details are essential for the realisation of a design.

Step 2: Transferring the design requires exceptional manual skill, concentration, imagination, and long years of experience. The shape and design of the embossing tool will be decisive for the look of the medal.

Step 3: Blanks are punched out of large sheets.

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Sept 4: The subject of the medal is transferred to the blanks. Inserting and positioning a blank in the embossing tool is a challenge, even for experienced craftsmen.

Step 5: Galvanic gold and silver plating will provide the medal with its lustre.

Step 6: The medals are polished manually by experienced polishers who will let the medals sparkle and allow the embossment to take its full effect.

Step 7: The medal are coated with zapon varnish for protection.

Step 8: Ribbons are attached to the medals.

Step 9: Only once the medallists are known, will their names, performances, positions, as well as the name of the venue be engraved.

Faude & Huguenin SA – a success story

1868: Two young craftsmen, engraver Fritz Huguenin and his brother Albert, a guillocheur, get settled in a small workshop and specialize in crafting embossings for watch cases.

1888: The Huguenins engrave their first medal.

1968: After 100 years, the company is renamed to Huguenin Médailleurs S. A. The manufactory is still managed by a member of the family, who leads the company dynamically and confidentially into the second century of existence.

1992: Huguenin Médailleurs S.A. launch their first coins with colour embossing.

1999: The manufactory merges with Kramer (a company based in Neuchatel) in 1999 and then with Faude in 2002, creating today's Faude & Huguenin SA.

2011: Their unique quality products have earned Faude & Huguenin SA an excellent reputation among customers around the world. The history of the company is a true success story which began 150 years ago.