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RIO 2016 IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS FOR MODERN PENTATHLON

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With the Olympic Games now only five months away, the world's best Pentathletes are heading en masse to Brazil for the official Rio 2016 Modern Pentathlon Test Event (March 10-14), which doubles as the second stage of the UIPM 2016 World Cup.

And yesterday (March 2) two of the venues for Modern Pentathlon were officially unveiled by the Rio City Government. The Deodoro Stadium, which will host the Riding and the Combined Event (run/shoot), was opened along with the Youth Arena, which will host Fencing. Both venues are situated in Deodoro Olympic Park, the second largest Rio 2016 venue cluster, as is the Deodoro Aquatic Centre where the Swimming will take place.

There will be 187 athletes putting all of these venues to the test during World Cup #2, including the reigning men's and women's Olympic champions, Laura Asadauskaite (LTU) and David Svoboda (CZE).

The man defending the World Cup title, Riccardo De Luca (ITA), will be in Rio as well as Lena Schoneborn (GER), gold medallist at the 2015 World Championships. And both 2014 world champions, Samantha Murray (GBR) and Aleksander Lesun (RUS) complete the all-star cast.

Schoneborn (GER) got the season up and running in style last weekend when she won women's individual gold at World Cup #1 in Cairo, while Amro El Geziry (EGY) is the man to catch in the standings after his spectacular victory in front of a home crowd.

So it will be a fascinating clash between the current top-ranked pentathletes and others who have carried home the big prizes before as we get a glimpse of the kind of competition - from both a sporting and facilities perspective - that awaits in Rio in August.

UIPM President Dr Klaus Schormann said: "The UIPM World Cup also offers a global showcase to our corporate partners, our broadcast partners and our officials, all of whom will be very well accommodated by our hosts.
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We visit Rio de Janeiro for the first time since the 2013 World Cup, and it will be fascinating to see the world's greatest pentathletes doing battle here in a state-of-the-art venue.

"I would like to thank the Local Organizing Committee, the Brazilian Modern Pentathlon Federation and the Rio 2016 team for organising this important event, which I am sure will whet our appetite greatly for our next visit in August."

World Cup #2 runs from March 10-14 with the finals on March 12-14. The Combined Event of each finals session will be available to view on live stream at uipmtv.org with highlights of the whole day's action to follow. For up-to-date results of all competitions visit pentathlon.org.