

# THE O2 ARENA

An aerial photograph of The O2 Arena in London, showing its distinctive white, tent-like roof structure. Several tall yellow cranes are positioned around the roof, indicating ongoing construction or maintenance. The arena is situated on the banks of the River Thames, with various buildings and infrastructure visible in the surrounding urban area.

By Habel Moyà and Teo Duran

# ***DESCRIPTION***

The O2 Arena (temporarily the sponsor neutral "North Greenwich Arena", during the 2012 Summer Olympics and 2012 Summer Paralympics), is a multi purpose indoor arena located in the centre of The O2 entertainment complex on the Greenwich Peninsula in south east London.

The arena was built under the former Millennium Dome, a large dome shaped building built to house an exhibition celebrating the turn of the third millennium; as the dome shaped structure still stands over the arena, The Dome remains a name in common usage for the venue. The arena, as well as the total O2 complex, is named after its primary sponsor, the telecommunications company O2.

The O2 Arena has the second highest seating capacity of any indoor venue in the United Kingdom, behind the Manchester Arena, but took the crown of the world's busiest music arena from New York City's Madison Square Garden in 2008. The closest underground station to the venue is the North Greenwich station on the Jubilee line.

# ***HISTORY***

Following the closure of the Millennium Experience at the end of 2000, the Millennium Dome was leased to Meridian Delta Ltd. in December 2001, for redevelopment as an entertainment complex. This included plans for an indoor arena.

Construction of the arena started in 2003, and finished in 2007. After the interior of the dome had been largely cleared and before building work inside began, in December 2004, the dome was used as the main venue for the annual Crisis Open Christmas organised by the London based homelessness charity Crisis.



Owing to the impossibility of using cranes inside the dome structure, the arena's roof was constructed on the ground within the dome and then lifted. The arena building's structure was then built around the roof. The arena building, which houses the arena and the arena concourse, is independent from all other buildings in the O2 and houses all the arena's facilities. The arena building itself takes up 40% of the total dome structure.

The seating arrangement throughout the whole arena can be modified, similar to the Manchester Arena.[6] The ground surface can also be changed between ice rink, basketball court, exhibition space, conference venue, private hire venue and concert venue.

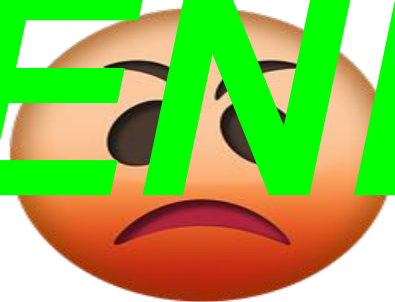
The arena was built to reduce echoing, a common problem among London music venues.



# ***UBICATION***

The O2 Arena is located in Royal Borough of Greenwich  
The O2 Arena  
Former names North Greenwich Arena (during the 2012 Summer Olympics and Paralympics)  
Location Greenwich, London  
Coordinates  $51^{\circ}30'10.79''\text{N } 0^{\circ}0'11.28''\text{E}$   
Public transit London Underground North Greenwich  
Owner Homes and Communities Agency  
Operator AnSCO Arena Limited (AEG Live)  
Europe  
Capacity 20,000  
Surface Versatile





**THE END**

