



## MEDIA RELEASE

15 December 2009

### AUSTRALIAN BIATHLETES ACHIEVE OLYMPIC QUALIFIER TIMES

The second world cup event at Hochfilzen was successful for Mark and Alex as both achieved results within 20% of the average of the top 3 finishes. Results within this percentage are known as Q times and fit within our Olympic qualifier times and also enable both athletes to gain an automatic start in the following race trimester after Xmas 2009.

Hochfilzen had only a sprint event for our Australian Biathletes to take part in with other races focusing on Relay events for which Australia does not have 4 athletes qualified to take part in yet.

The Sprint race produced a close result between Mark and Alex with Mark winning out by 2 seconds in tough conditions that made for heavy skiing in very wet thin snow.

From Hochfilzen it was a quick trip to Ridnuan in Italy for a European Cup race on the way to Slovenia for the next World Cup race in Pokljuka. The sprint race in Ridnuan saw Alex post a good shooting bout with only 2 penalties and fast skiing time to finish a little over 3 minutes behind the winner. An unprecedented error in Standing saw Marks results suffer and finish behind Alex.

Mark and Alex's next race is a 20km Individual event on Thursday 17 December, at 14:15 local time.

Interviews and media enquiries may be directed to:

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