

ILT Foundation Grant \$32,000 to Sport Southland on 27 August 2009

## NEW TECHNOLOGY TO TRACK RUNNERS IN SOUTHLAND MARATHON

The latest in timing technology will be used at the Southland Marathon thanks in part to the ILT Foundation.

Sport Southland Richard Pasco said the organisation had purchased the new timing equipment which will be used by many sporting disciplines.

“We see there being four main user groups - road cycling, mountain biking, triathlon and multi-sport and athletics.”

The technology for the cycling and running was different due to the speed at which competitors raced. Therefore two different systems with accompanying transponders had been bought, he said.

Each competitor would be allocated a transponder to be worn around the ankle.

This transponder would track at which time the competitor crossed the start and finish lines and any transition stages during a race.

The information would be transferred to a master laptop making times available immediately.

The timing equipment would require less labour and be far more precise, eliminating human error, he said.

“It’s efficient, it’s accurate and it speeds up the whole process.”

It was hoped the equipment would be available and training complete in time for the Tour of Southland from November 2 to 7 and the 100-year-old Southland Marathon which was doubling as the New Zealand Marathon Championships on November 22.

It would also be available for other community events.

“It means we can keep the costs down for local events – costs that would have had to be transferred to those taking part.”

The ILT Foundation have acknowledged what an asset the technology would be to the community and granted \$32,000 of the \$70,000 price tag.

ILT Foundation chairman Alan Dennis said the equipment was of huge benefit to a wide variety of users.

“Those who compete at athletics meetings at Surrey Park, mountainbikers taking part in competitive rides at Sandy Point and triathletes will all be able to take advantage of this technology

“It’s great that an investment from the ILT Foundation means costs for entry fees will be kept to a minimum making these events accesible for everybody.”