



## International Marble Run

This is a highly competitive, fun and fast-moving team building event involving collaboration, negotiations and competition. Teams are allocated an international territory and are organised into consortia; this means that teams need to work collaboratively with some territories whilst competing with others!

The challenge is to transport marbles by pipeline from the city of *Alpha* to the city of *Bravo* crossing international boundaries en-route. Each team may only operate inside their national boundaries - an area of the function room (or grass/hard-standing area) clearly marked out by bright hazard tape.

Teams each have access to a set of construction materials. Teams receive incoming marbles from one or more neighbouring teams and then pass them on to the next teams in their consortium. This requires collaboration between teams to pool and exchange resources to ensure that the pipeline works as a complete entity.

Individual teams can improve their pipeline by building in special features (drops, bends etc.); by paying attention to structural integrity and by the decoration and adornment of their pipeline with national emblems and symbols. Pipelines need to meet stringent customer requirements, be environmentally friendly and pleasing to the communities through which they pass.

An Award Ceremony at the close recognises a variety of achievements such as ambition demonstrated, artistry, engineering, innovation and of course whether the pipeline delivers! This high-energy event really taps into teamwork and is ideal as a conference energiser or to add a team building element to a meeting, seminar or training course. As well as a sense of achievement, the pipeline activity provides a clear example of the need for a collaborative approach and for "joined-up" thinking.

- 8– 200 participants
- Indoors or outdoors
- Competitive
- Half-day activity
- Fast-paced & fun!



*The Marble Run activity achieved our two objectives. It pulled the team together following a major period of reorganisation and helped consolidate our "one-team" culture. We were very satisfied.*  
**Ray B – Johnson & Johnson**

### Team Learning:

- Collaborative approach
- Effective communication
- Seeing the bigger picture
- Working across team boundaries