Sid the spider tech spec

1. We need a good secure overnight parking arrangement for our loaded minibus and parking at the site of montage assemblage for the performance. The site of montage should be close to the start of the performance and hidden from the public and 10x10 metres of space for the caterpillar assembly plus enough space for a Mercedes sprinter adjacent to that. It is necessary to have the **van at the montage point and a guard** who will stay with the van during the performance to provide security for the equipment tools ground sheets etc. (see 8)
2. The spider uses 36 cubic metres of helium which fill the balloon that elevates its abdomen. This will last for all the performances in one day. If two days of performance are required another 6 cubic metres can be used as top up provided that we have overnight security on the tethered balloon. The helium will be supplied by the producer and we will have to solve the issue of the compatibility of the tap connectors between the helium bottles the producer supplies us with and our diffuser for pumping the helium into the balloon, or the producer will have to hire in a diffuser compatible with the tanks of helium that the producer has bought.
3. The Spider has a recorded sound track for when it performs in a square. A PA sound system that is appropriate to the site would need to be provided by the organiser who wished to take up this option. This is recommended but not obligatory.
4. The NWSI Fee quotation is net of taxes. NWSI will be supplied with a certificate of any tax paid on our behalf, but it will not come out of our fee.
5. The Caterpillar takes a team of ten to operate and they will need athletic drinks accommodation and per diems as relevant.
6. The Cast of 11 will need a meal on the night of arrival. Please note that most of the cast are vegetarians. Good hotel accommodation and breakfast at the hotel. In addition they will need 2 meals with good choice, and drinks on the days of performance. Athletic drinks e.g. `Gaiter Aid` or `Pokari Sweat` (salts sodium and potassium replacement not stimulants) and bottled water will be supplied after each performance.
7. A helper may be required to meet us from the airport and direct us from the hotel to the site of performance. If we arrive by air then all internal transportation issues and costume storage will be the responsibility of the promoter.
8. Crowds and stewards. The Spider can perform straight through a very large and quite dense crowd. This is the way we use it in Grand Magix and it is a very nice and interactive use of the Spider. But, if it is done this way, eight stewards (ten ideal) are the minimum for this operation to guard against interactive fun turning into abuse of the performer and the puppet, and to deal with any random or drunken violence that a large invading monster might attract from the lunatic fringe.

9. The place where the performers assemble the spider must be close to the site of performance otherwise all the performers energy is used up prior to the performance. Ideally this will be up a back street or a car park or the back of a shop where no-one can see them getting into costume The host is responsible for parking permits and the get in and get out. (In the case of wanting three Spider performances in the same day a UK power compatible supply ie 50hz 240-260 v like we have in most of Europe) will usually be needed to recharge the battery packs which power the cold air supplies that inflate it, and a few hours of charging time.
10. Weather conditions. The Spider is large and therefore catches the wind, like the sails on a clipper. There is a risk that high wind will prevent or curtail a performance. However, so far, in two years of professional performances, we have had no cancellations, and it may be that the weather conditions, which would make it completely impossible, are such that most performances would be impossible. The Caterpillar performed on two very gusty days in Nice Carnival parades in the spring of 2002 and on one of the days the performance had to be shortened. We also bring a number of les Oiseaux costumes in case of an acute wind problem so that in those circumstances we can perform 6-7 Oiseaux de lux as a substitute for the caterpillar performance. The bottom line is that the company has to be paid the same amount by the organiser even if the performance had to be curtailed or substituted. One important point Re wind is that there are times of day with more wind, these are the times of the heating and cooling of the atmosphere eg morning and late afternoon. These should be avoided if possible.
11. Usually when there is little wind the Spider can cover from half a mile to a mile without problems, it might be able to do more. The Spider is ok in light rain but we can not let rain get into electrics. If there is mud we lay down a tarpaulin before taking the caterpillar out of its bag to assemble. If there is any thunder we wait until all cumulonimbus electric activity is over before inflation and performance.
12. The Spider's route needs to be studied with a view to over head obstruction turning circles and size. The size of the spider is such that the route has to be examined for overhead obstructions especially power cables. 10 metres height is plenty and it can duck down under some obstructions. Secondly it needs to be wide enough. About 8 metres width will allow clearance. A wind shadow provides the ideal place for assembly ie a small square or side street surrounded by high buildings but it can be assembled any where that provides about 10x10 metres of ground space

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Risk assessment

Giant inflatables magicians Dali and Gala Spider caterpillar etc

Risks to the public
Power lines, and overhead barriers could be damaged and a lethal dose of electricity conducted to the performer or to the audience.
The structures can be an electrical attractor especially when wet

Prevention or reduction
The site and route needs to be scrutinised for over-head barriers and in particular Power lines. The performers need stewards to protect them from chaotic intervention from the crowd.

Wind above 9 knots could render inflatables unusable, as does cumulonimbus activity with its attendant electrical risks.