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## AFP: A PHOTO OF USAIN BOLT TAKES THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS BY STORM

**OLIVIER MORIN, THE AFP PHOTOGRAPHER WHO TOOK THIS EXCEPTIONAL PHOTO, MANAGED TO CAPTURE THE CHAMPION USAIN BOLT CROSSING THE FINISH LINE AT THE SAME TIME AS A LIGHTNING BOLT ILLUMINATED THE MOSCOW SKY.**



AFP/Olivier Morin

of luck, it would be the right photo. But I completely underestimated the media storm that this image would generate.” He added, “In 25 years of career, I have never had an outside, uncontrollable element make the shot. And I think that if I tried for another 50 years, it would never happen again. I really can only take 1% credit for this photo.”

The photo was taken with the final remote control camera out of five set up on the edge of the field, this one back behind the finish line. Olivier Morin was counting on getting a shot of the winner coming through, arms in the air, with the stadium as the background. That was the idea. Usain Bolt won the race, crossing the finish line with no visible display of emotion. Olivier Morin tells the story: “I nevertheless pressed the remote control button to set off the cameras’ triggers.” Olivier reviewed his shots without seeing anything exceptional. “At first I didn’t see the lightning, because the image was so small on the preview panel.” He noticed four shots with lightning; two were useable, as the cloud was lit up and the bolt was perfectly clear. “I realised then that I might have something pretty good, and with a bit

The photo went viral across the social networks, particularly Twitter where it has been retweeted more than 12,000 times. It has also already achieved great international media acclaim. The [Daily Mail](#) thinks this shot could become one of the greatest sport photographs of all time. [Eurosport](#) called Olivier Morin’s image “career-defining” for Usain Bolt. Other sites emphasised the once in a lifetime nature of this photo and its author’s talent, such as [News.com \(Australia\)](#), [Daily Relay \(US\)](#), [Slate.fr \(France\)](#), [Bigbrowser.blog](#), [lemonde.fr \(France\)](#), [20minutes.fr \(France\)](#), [PureMedias \(France\)](#), [Rue89.com \(France\)](#), [Temsreel.nouvelobs.com \(France\)](#), [Sport24.com \(France\)](#), [La province.be \(Belgium\)](#), [Nordeclair.be \(Belgium\)](#), among others.

Olivier Morin, 47 years old, an AFP photojournalist since the age of 20, is currently based out of Milan and is one of the agency’s sport specialists. Boasting a network of some 500 photographers who often win the most prestigious international awards, AFP releases more than 3,000 photos every day, and is known for its expert photo coverage. AFP’s image bank includes 40 partners who enrich its offer, with more than 23 million images.

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