

# Technical service team in action completes over 100 repairs to athletes' equipment on first day of the London 2012 Paralympic Games

Submitted by: Media Safari

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Ottobock Healthcare (<http://www.ottobock.co.uk>) completes repairs to power wheelchairs for boccia and wheelchairs for racing, tennis, fencing, rugby and basketball to keep Paralympians in the game

Ottobock Healthcare, Official Prosthetic, Orthotic and Wheelchair Technical Service Provider to the 2012 Paralympic Games (<http://passion.ottobock.com>) completed 103 repairs on the first day of competition. Working behind the scenes in a 6,500 ft<sup>2</sup> workshop in the Paralympic Village and nine other workshops next to the field of play at nine competition venues, 80 Ottobock technicians were responsible for repairs during competition. On the first day of Paralympic sport, repairs to boccia, racing, fencing, tennis, rugby and basketball wheelchairs were conducted by Ottobock staff, along with orthotic repairs.

103 Paralympians from 52 of the competing countries visited one of the Ottobock workshops to have their equipment repaired by the technical service team. Jobs carried out by the team of experts included repairs such as welding, punctures, wheel castor alignment and leather repairs for a wide variety of wheelchairs. A number of athletes, including members of the Chinese boccia team were already waiting for repairs upon the workshop's opening. As a sport that requires precise movement, Ottobock's team of expert wheelchair technicians were able to carefully repair the user controls to ensure equipment responds exactly as they direct it to.

Ottobock is supporting all 4,200 competing athletes with a team of expert prosthetists, orthotists and wheelchair technicians, including 12 welders, who have all volunteered their services. The team of technicians come from 18 countries and speak 14 languages. With a variety of wheelchair sports such as basketball beginning on the first day of competition, support mainly covered these areas in addition to the first repairs for wheelchair rugby as athletes prepare for upcoming events.

All athletes competing at the London 2012 Paralympic Games can have their equipment checked and repaired by Ottobock experts before or during competition. Like the services provided by mechanics during a pit-stop in motor racing, Ottobock's technical service team are located next to the field of play, with repairs allowing athletes back into the competition as fast as possible.

Ottobock has been a partner to the Paralympic Games providing technical service since the Seoul 1988 Paralympic Games, and has completed approximately 10,000 repairs for athletes during Paralympic competition since then. Records for most repairs completed in a single Games were set at the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games where technicians worked more than 10,000 hours completing 2,188 repairs, including 183 in a single day.

"As expected, the first day of the competition was a busy one. The workshop was a hive of activity and there was the constant hum of machinery as technicians completed repairs involving sanding, sawing and welding," said Hughes Myner, Ottobock Technical Service Team Member at the London 2012 Paralympic Games. "Although we have conducted a very large amount of welding on the first day, we anticipate this will dramatically increase when the wheelchair rugby starts."

Picture caption: (Further images available on request) On the first day of the Paralympic Games, the Ottobock technical service team completed repairs for Paralympians competing across a number of wheelchair sports.

About Ottobock Healthcare (<http://paralympic-press.ottobock.com>)

Ottobock is a world leading supplier of high quality, innovative and practical solutions that restore human mobility and help people to rediscover personal independence. Ottobock Healthcare is part of the Ottobock global group of companies established in the UK in 1976. Its wide product range includes high quality prosthetic and orthotic components, wheelchairs, rehabilitation and mobility products available through the country's leading clinics and dealers. With a highly motivated and skilled team of professionals offering expert advice, product sales, service and support, Ottobock solutions enhance the physical comfort, confidence and mobility of the individual. Ottobock aims to achieve the best possible outcome for its customers, combining the latest technology with cutting-edge products and services.

Ottobock is also the Official Prosthetic, Orthotic and Wheelchair Technical Service Provider of the 2012 Paralympic Games. It has been supporting people with disabilities to participate in sports and recreation for more than three decades, and has been a Partner of the Paralympic Games since 1988. Ottobock has been an official 'Worldwide Partner of the Paralympic Movement' since 2005. [www.ottobock.co.uk](http://www.ottobock.co.uk)

For further press information and images, or to book a behind the scenes tour of the Ottobock workshop in the Paralympic Village please contact:

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