

Ottobock Technical Service Team has completed 1,761 equipment repairs for 1282 athletes as competition reaches half way point at the London 2012 Paralympic Games

Submitted by: Media Safari

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Repairs, maintenance and technical support includes keeping athletes in the game during rowing and sailing

Ottobock Healthcare (<http://www.ottobock.co.uk>), Official Prosthetic, Orthotic and Wheelchair Technical Service Provider to the 2012 Paralympic Games has completed 1,761 repairs after day five of competition. Working behind the scenes in a 6,500 ft² workshop in the Paralympic Village and nine other workshops next to the field of play at nine competition venues including Eton Dorney and Weymouth, 80 Ottobock technicians are responsible for repairs ranging from mending prosthetic legs to replacing wheelchair tyres.

Since opening the workshops on 22nd August, 1,413 wheelchairs, 247 prostheses and 101 orthoses repairs have been made by the technical service team. Athletes competing in Weymouth for the sailing and Eton Dorney for the rowing have received support from the Technical Service Team for a variety of repairs including punctures, socket adjustments to leg prostheses and the fitting of new wheel bearings. Ottobock's team has also provided specialised technical support. At Eton Dorney the team designed and built a protective covering for a rower whose residual limb was rubbing against the boat impeding their performance. In Weymouth the team provided support to a sailor who was experiencing problems with his prosthetic leg that was threatening his ability to compete.'

"The majority of the equipment we have repaired comes from athletes who are spending lots of time by the water," said Emily Harrison, Ottobock Technical Service Team Member at the 2012 Paralympic Games. "Damp conditions at the rowing means we have to provide regular maintenance to prostheses and wheelchairs such as wheel bearings and puncture repairs. As Technical Service Provider to the Games, our role goes beyond wheelchair, prosthetic and orthotic repairs. For example, we built an interface for a double amputee to prevent friction burns whilst rowing."

Geoffrey Harding was working in Weymouth with the Ottobock Technical Service Team, he said "the sailing is quite different from working in the main workshop as most of the athletes don't use their equipment in the boat, so we tend to deal with a lot of day-to-day equipment such as wheelchair tyres and castors. Prosthetic repairs were also in high demand. One athlete has just received a new prosthetic leg that kept falling off risking his ability to compete. We have now provided a solution and will continue to provide him support throughout the competition."

Ottobock is supporting all 4,200 competing athletes with a team of 80 expert prosthetists, orthotists and wheelchair technicians, including 12 welders. The team of technicians come from 18 countries and speak more than 20 languages. Like the services provided by mechanics during a pit-stop in motor racing, members of Ottobock's technical service team are located next to the field of play and are responsible for the repair and maintenance of equipment damaged during competition.

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. The record 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.

Technical service by the numbers:

Total repairs:

Total repairs to date 1761

Orthotic: Day five 15, total to date 101

Prosthetic: Day five 18, total to date 247

Wheelchair: Day five 194, total to date 1413

Number of athletes serviced: Day five 162, total to date 1282

Number of countries serviced: Total to date 121

Picture caption: (Further images available on request) Ottobock Healthcare, Official Prosthetic, Orthotic and Wheelchair Technical Service Provider to the 2012 Paralympic Games has completed 1,761 repairs after day five of competition.

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

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

Charlotte Rowland / Thomas O'Neill

Media Safari

T: +44 (0)1225 471202

E: Ottobock@mediasafari.co.uk

Anna Parisi

Manager – PR and Partnerships

London 2012 Paralympic Games

Ottobock Healthcare
T: +44 (0)7584 162563
E: anna.parisi@ottobock.com