

# Ottobock technical service team completes repairs for 1,549 athletes as the competition continues

Submitted by: Media Safari

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Demand for welding services increases in anticipation of the start of the Wheelchair Rugby

Ottobock Healthcare (<http://www.ottobock.co.uk>), Official Prosthetic, Orthotic and Wheelchair Technical Service Provider to the 2012 Paralympic Games, completed 250 repairs on day six 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.

Paralympians from 121 of the competing countries have visited one of the Ottobock workshops since it opened on 22nd August. On day six of competition alone, 201 wheelchairs, 23 prostheses and 26 orthoses repairs were made by the technical service team. Ahead of competition, athletes preparing for the wheelchair rugby visited the Ottobock workshop in order to have their chairs adjusted to ensure they meet Games criteria, repaired or even sprayed with national flags and emblems. In addition to the wheelchair rugby, several shotput athletes also sought Ottobock's assistance in need of heavy welding and new footplates.

"The Ottobock workshop has been gearing up for the wheelchair rugby today – as athletes make their final preparations for the start of competition," said Russell Pizzey, Team Leader of the Ottobock Technical Service Team (<http://www.passion.ottobock.com>) at the London 2012 Paralympic Games. "Things have really been heating up, and our 12 welders have been kept very busy. Fixing one problem often shows up imperfections in another part of the chair that need to be fixed, so it has also been a busy day for repairs. To date, we have been conducting repairs from our main workshop in the Paralympic Village. However, during the Games we will all be completing urgent repairs from a workshop in the Basketball Arena."

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: Day six, 250, total to date 2,238

Number of repairs per type:

Orthotic, Day six: 26, to date 142  
Prosthetic, Day six: 23, to date 288  
Wheelchair, Day six:201, to date 1,808  
Number of athletes serviced: 105, total to date 1,549  
Number of countries serviced 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, completed 250 repairs on day six of competition, as wheelchair repairs escalated and scrutiny began ahead of the wheelchair rugby

About Ottobock Healthcare (<http://www.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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