"PASSION FOR THE PARALYMPICS"
OTTOBOCK SPORT AND ACTIVE PERFORMANCE
HUGHES MYNER, DIRECTOR OF SALES
Mobility Solutions, Ottobock Canada

A history of Ottobock’s journey with the Paralympic movement spans over 25 years. Ottobock has combined our hands-on service experience at many Paralympic games and our partnership with world class athletes to create many innovative products. Ottobock has used this knowledge and experience to develop prosthetics and mobility products for active people, recreational sport clients all the way to the elite athlete.

Ottobock and the Paralympic movement

Founded in 1919, Ottobock is a leading provider of technology and service to enable people with limited mobility to lead active and fulfilling lives. The company is the world’s only provider of a complete range of mobility solutions spanning prosthetics, orthotics, wheelchairs and neuro rehabilitation.

"We help people regain and maintain their freedom of movement".¹ We support this goal with innovative tools and outstanding technologies, through our broad range of expertise, the global presence of our sales and service networks, and with our qualified colleagues. We try to see the world through the eyes of our users and customers with respect, courage, and dedication. Living this mission every day connects us with each other and with the people with whom we serve.

On 29 July 1948, the day of the Opening Ceremony of the London 1948 Olympic Games, Dr. Guttmann organized the first competition for wheelchair athletes which he named the Stoke Mandeville Games, a milestone in Paralympics history.² These Games later became the Paralympic Games which first took place in Rome, Italy in 1960 featuring 400 athletes from 23 countries.³ Since the summer games of Seoul, South Korea in 1988 and the Winter Games in Albertville, France in 1992 the Paralympic games have taken place in the same cities and venues as the Olympics based on an agreement between the IPC (International Paralympic Committee) and the IOC (International Olympic Committee).⁴

Ottobock is the longest serving partner to the Paralympic Games, providing technical service for athletes since the Seoul 1988, becoming a Worldwide Partner of the International Paralympic Committee in 2005.

The Games, our involvement, our athletes

The Paralympic Games are a showcase for mobility and inclusion. They provide a global stage to draw attention to the importance of technology for athletes but it also gives all persons with a disability the opportunity to be active and independent.

Ottobock has been involved with 7 summer Paralympic games and 5 winter Paralympic games since 1988. We’ve completed over 12,000 repairs for thousands of athletes. We have an international team of more than 100 technicians with Paralympic experience. In London 2012, there were 80 prosthetists, orthotists and wheelchair technicians and 12 welders, they came from 20 different countries and spoke over 15 languages. Ottobock hosted workshops at 13 venues including 1 mobile unit. We were open for service from 7am to 11pm with 24 hour emergency service when needed. The technicians worked over 10,000 hours during 22 days and completed 2,062 repairs.

The Ottobock technical service team includes some of the most talented prosthetists, orthotists and wheelchair technicians in the world. They carry out service and maintenance for any brand of mobility equipment used by Paralympians, on or off the field of play, similar to the pit lane in motor-racing.
Ottobock’s track and court-side technical service provides seamless mobility equipment repairs, wasting no time in returning Paralympians to action. Athletes rely on Ottobock so all they have to focus on is achieving their best performance in the competition.

Many athletes from around the world rely on Ottobock equipment for competition, training and everyday life. They include a group of athletes and teams competing in a wide variety of sports at every level. Sharing our passion for Paralympics, they are dedicated to working as ambassadors to promote sport and active lifestyles for all people with disabilities. Athletes like Heinrich Popow (Germany) help provide feedback and ideas for sport product development as well as everyday products.

Ottobock partners with many athletes around the world. For example:

In track and field, using Ottobock’s running knee and blades:

- Heinrich Popow (Germany)
  - London 2012 T42 100m Paralympic champion

- Marlou van Rhijn (Netherlands)
  - London 2012 T44 200m Paralympic champion and 100m silver medallist.
  - T44 100m and 200m world champion and world record holder (As of November 2015)

- Martina Caironi (Italy)
  - London 2012 T42 100m Paralympic champion
  - T42 100m world champion and record holder (As of November 2015)

In wheelchair basketball, using the Invader Wheelchair:

- Men’s and Women’s Wheelchair Basketball Team (Germany)

In triathlon, using Ottobock’s running knee and blades:

- Andy Lewis, UK
- Liisa Lilja, Finland

**Product design for athlete, recreational or everyday life**

Ottobock’s sports line offers one of the largest selection of wheelchairs, orthotics and sports prosthesis in the world enabling people with limited mobility to enjoy a wide choice of sports. They are designed so that people with all levels of mobility can enjoy exercise.


**Sports prosthesis, running blades and knees:**

- Sprinter, a carbon fibre running blade for experienced runners, sprinters and long jumpers.
- Runner and Runner Junior, a carbon fibre running blade for the beginner, recreational and experienced runners.
- 3S80 knee joint designed exclusively for running is appropriate for the beginner, recreational and experienced users, providing a natural running gait.
- Challenger: a carbon fibre running blade suitable for court and ball sports as well as running, providing users the flexibility to enjoy a variety of sports without having to purchase multiple items of expensive equipment.
- ProCarve to satisfy the extreme sports enthusiast who wants to ski, snowboard or water-ski.

**Wheelchairs**

- Invader Basketball for regular players and high performance athletes
Making a difference “let’s get active” “partnership with Non-Profits”

Ottobock and Motivation UK (an international development charity) have joined forces in a unique partnership. It was the first time a small Non-Governmental Organization NGO and a global provider of wheelchair solutions have combined their shared values and complementary expertise to create the scale and distribution needed to give thousands of people the chance to live active and independent lives, creating far-reaching socio-economic benefits.

With the right equipment and support, wheelchair sport can bring life-changing benefits. It’s not just about winning medals; sport increases confidence, independence and fitness, and is a fantastic way to become active at home, school and in the community.

The rising popularity of the Paralympic Games and the increased recognition of the positive impact of sport and recreation on quality of life for people with disabilities created worldwide demand for entry-level equipment.

Ottobock is proud to include Motivation UK sports wheelchairs in its product range, helping to meet local market needs for entry-level sports equipment to support the growth of grassroots sports and improve access to sport for people with a disability.

References:
1. Ottobock Mission Statement

Speaker Bios:

Hughes Myner, Director of Sales, Mobility Solutions, Ottobock Healthcare Canada. Hughes was a presenter at the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Ottobock display, he served as a Technician/Welder at the London 2012 games as well as Sochi 2014 and the Toronto ParaPan Am games in 2015. He will soon be going to the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games in the same capacity.

Helpful links:
https://www.paralympic.org/
http://www.motivation.org.uk/Pages/Category/sports-wheelchairs