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Press Release

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Otto Bock places emphasis on high tech and design

The global leader in prosthetics Otto Bock HealthCare presents the new C-Leg® among many other innovations at the international trade show ORTHOPÄDIE + REHA-TECHNIK in Leipzig (May 10 to 13, 2006). For this high-tech prosthesis, as well as for the other Otto Bock innovations, functionality and quality are setting the standards. Breathtaking perspectives are opened by neurostimulation as a new product sector of the medtech company.

C-Leg® technology is used worldwide by more than 13,000 people. Nine years of experience of the manufacturer Otto Bock as well as many suggestions and requests from C-Leg® users have been integrated in the design of the new C-Leg®. The new joint has an additional "standing modus" that has a relieving function in the stance phase in addition to providing more safety. Thanks to the new wireless remote control, transfemoral amputees can also switch to another setting when, for example, going bike riding, cross-country skiing or inline skating. Several times daily, C-Leg® demonstrations in Leipzig (Otto Bock Booth A 01, Hall 1) provide visitors with an overview of the various products of the C-Leg® family. Based on our many years of C-Leg® experience we have also added another feature for the new model: the service intervals were extended from 12 to 24 months.



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A paradigm for the harmony of function and design is the new prosthesis foot 1C30 Trias. The degree to which Orthobionic® – the scientific basis of research and development at Otto Bock – approximates nature as a model is proven with biomechanical comparison data: energy reception, storage and return during roll-over of the 1C30 Trias are largely comparable to the natural foot. Its light construction particularly benefits amputees of mobility grades 2 and 3. The singular double-spring technology promotes a physiological gait, which contributes to the protection of the healthy leg, the hip and the spine. As with the functionality, the clear design of the Trias is also closely oriented to nature, making for an appealing exterior. Here, "Form follows function" almost becomes "Form is function".

Systems for life quality

Another innovation that is receiving a lot of attention in Leipzig is the DynamicArm®. The product was already presented at the Industrie-Messe in Hannover, where it was selected as one of the top five innovations that were nominated for the Hermes Award 2006. The design of this prosthesis system has already been distinguished with the reddot award. Controlled by muscle potentials, the Dynamic-Arm® is the high-end product for above-elbow amputees. The gem component of the DynamicArm® is the Vario drive of the elbow joint. It allows for particularly harmonious and continuous movement patterns with high flexibility and speed in addition to the possibility to lift loads of up to six kilograms. The DynamicArm® is often combined with the SensorHand Speed, which has high access speed as well as sensors in the artificial fingers. The latter automatically recognize when an object slips through them and then immediately adapt the grip strength. Moreover, the control of the System Electric Greifer DMC VariPlus has been adapted to match that of the SensorHand Speed. Users can therewith switch between SensorHand Speed and the Electric Greifer VariPlus without problems.

A further Otto Bock novelty in prosthetics is a new generation of prosthetic gloves. The Clean Series stands out for its particularly easy-to-clean special coating.



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Thanks to the new suction socket electrodes and a specially developed ejector valve, arm amputees can now also benefit from vacuum technology, which improves the adhesion of the prosthesis. For two years now, the Harmony® system for transtibial amputees has successfully proven the many advantages of connections based on negative pressure between the body and the prosthesis.

Trade show visitors are invited to "feel" for themselves, in touch&feel displays, the current status of materials development of silicone liners, polyurethane and copolymer for individual fittings. An innovative highlight from the field of materials development is SilverShield® technology, by which integrated silver ions promote hygiene and prevent the risk of infection.

Orthotics

The E-MAG Control introduced electronics to Otto Bock orthotics. The knee joint lock is operated with a remote control. This constitutes a considerable safety advantage for people with restricted mobility. Unlike with manually operated joints, users do not have to set the crutch aside with the E-MAG Control. The lock cannot be released by mistake or by outside forces.

Aside from the protection of retained movement possibilities, orthotics supports rehabilitation. The appealing design and comfort have here proven advantageous for therapy, which is why Otto Bock insists on evaluating functionality under the aspect of user-friendliness as well. Among the Otto Bock trade show innovations, the functional knee orthosis Genu Arexa is a very good example of this development approach. It not only sets standards in regard to compliance and handling, but also in regard to a completely novel product design. For rehabilitations following ruptured cruciate ligaments, capsular ligament injuries or collateral ligament injuries, among others, Genu Arexa is both effective and aesthetically pleasing.

Functionality and wearing comfort also go hand in hand with the Lumbo TriStep. This new multifunction orthosis is designed for a three-phase therapy in which the muscular balance in the lumbar region is gradually restored. The particularly light and lean construction, together with autoadaptive support elements that adjust exceedingly



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well to the body, distinguish both the Genu Arexa and the Lumbo TriStep.

Bionicmobility®

The medtech company Otto Bock is venturing into the brand new field of neuro and electric stimulation. In Leipzig Otto Bock will present the first of its products of this type with the neural implant ActiGait®, a microtechnical rehabilitation aid that offers people with weak dorsiflexion higher safety and considerable walking improvement. The new development will benefit persons who have suffered damage to the central nervous system yet whose function of the peripheral nerves and muscles is intact.

Stroke patients are by far the largest group of persons afflicted with weak dorsiflexion. According to the World Health Organization, 15 million strokes occur every year worldwide, 5 million of which lead to permanent damages. For Otto Bock, helping these people through medical-technological innovations is among the most exciting challenges of the near future.

A further promising segment of Bionicmobility® from Otto Bock is functional electrotherapy. This therapy can promote the rehabilitation after a stroke or after damages to the central nervous system such as incomplete paraplegias. The new device STIWELL med4 here offers singular features: The processing of myoelectrical signals with four individually adjustable stimulation channels and two measuring channels is applicable to a very wide user spectrum. The electrical stimulation of complex movement sequences, combined with biofeedback functions, activates the ability of the human brain to generate structures in non-damaged areas that were lost in the damaged areas .

The Otto Bock product sector Bionicmobility® comprises, aside from neurostimulation, Mobility Solutions with its wide range of manual and power wheelchairs.



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Mobility Solutions

Long before its market launch, scheduled for June 2006, the outdoor vehicle SuperFour received a high media presence. In Leipzig, everybody will have the possibility to experience this high-tech vehicle in action on Visitor Day (Saturday, May 13). All-wheel driven with single-wheel steering, the SuperFour masters inclinations of up to 40 degrees. The hybrid motor achieves maximum mobility, even in remote areas, at a distance range of approximately 200 kilometers. People with restricted mobility will have access to wholly new possibilities. In the test phase, the SuperFour even stood its ground in the Dolomite Alps. The convincing visual exterior was developed in cooperation with automobile designers. Down to the last detail, whether halogen headlight or design of the rear-view mirror, utmost quality was a priority. With the push of a button, the seat can be moved to the front axis, allowing to get into and out of the wheelchair securely and comfortably. Moreover, when riding up and down hills, the seat area remains horizontal so that the driver does not slide off.

The Paragolfer is manufactured, as the SuperFour, by Otto Bock in Königsee, Thuringia, yet is distributed by the company ParaBaseTec. Its main feature is its high-quality lift mechanism, by which the driver is lifted into an upright position. This is helpful for activities that require a free and mobile shoulder girdle, such as golfing or fishing, or, when users want to be on eye level with other people.

Yet another presentation in Leipzig is the new version of the power wheelchair B500. This success model has been further enhanced with the Enable40 control and a LCD display that provides for a comfortable control of the operating status with large symbols. The B500 is preconfigured to allow for customized configurations, be it a seat tilt to 25 degrees, back angle adjustment or lighting.

A special role among the numerous Otto Bock products that have received design awards is the Avantgarde Ti ultra, launched in February 2006. As the first wheelchair ever, it was distinguished with the Design Award of the Federal Republic of Germany and won the silver medal.

The times in which little wheelchair riders had to make do with adapted big models are over. The children's power wheelchair Skippi was especially designed for children. Correspondingly, it features a colorful



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and child-friendly design. The chair is an important contribution to children's mobility, joy of movement and their social integration.

Service

For the first time, Otto Bock will present its range of comprehensive and sophisticated services at the Leipzig trade fair. These services include the training and continuing education offers of the Otto Bock Academy, aids for Planning & Equipping of orthopedic workshops, and the provision of financing assistance.

Otto Bock Service Fabrication is an outsourcing offer for specialty dealers. Based on their specifications, the sector delivers individually preconfigured products, which save time and money. Among the new features of Service Fabrication are software developments such as TT design or TF design, which allow clients to combine compatible prosthesis parts or components for socket fabrication on the computer. The goal of all new developments of Otto Bock is to provide users with the highest possible degree of mobility and independency through individually manufactured products.

Further information:

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