

## Otto Bock Celebrates 50 Years in the United States

Otto Bock HealthCare, the world's leading supplier of prosthetic components, was founded in Germany in 1919 and expanded to the United States 50 years ago. By coming to a new continent, Otto Bock's son-in-law, Max Näder, was able to carry on the founder's vision of promoting independence and mobility for everyone.

That vision has driven the company to literally change the industry and the lives of countless people. In its first decade in the U.S., Otto Bock HealthCare introduced a new method for aligning and fitting prostheses, which became the standard worldwide. The company also developed the first fully microprocessor-controlled knee, the C-Leg®, which remains the most widely used computer-controlled knee in the world.

Although Otto Bock HealthCare was originally located in downtown Minneapolis, they outgrew their facilities and moved to Golden Valley in 1969. The company moved again, to Plymouth, where they now have four locations with nearly 250 Minnesota-based employees and 600 employees nationwide.

### Repair Services to be Provided at 2008 Paralympics

Otto Bock HealthCare, with global headquarters in Duderstadt, Germany, and a worldwide partner of the

International Paralympics Committee (IPC), has been named the official repair service provider for prosthetics and wheelchairs at the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games.

Prostheses, orthoses, and wheelchairs are put under extreme strain when athletes with disabilities participate in high-performance sports. As a result, repairs are frequently required at the Paralympics and sometimes even directly at the competition site so that athletes can rely on their equipment.

The multicultural team of technicians consists of 86 men and women from 30 international Otto Bock subsidiaries. Also involved will be 50 prosthetists from China who have completed several weeks of sports-related training.

### Bilateral Upper Extremity Workshop To Be Held

A workshop and seminar dedicated to individuals living with bilateral upper extremity limb loss will be held in Denver, Oct. 9-12, 2008.

Skills for Life II, presented by Otto Bock HealthCare, is devoted specifically to issues faced by upper extremity amputees. Presenters will include therapists, prosthetists, physicians and individuals living with bilateral upper extremity limb loss.

Presentations will cover a variety of topics including techniques for activities of daily living, options for body-powered and myoelectric prostheses, and emotional adjustments to living with limb loss.

There is no charge for the workshop, but participants are responsible for their own travel, lodging, and food.

A registration form is available at [www.ottobockus.com](http://www.ottobockus.com).

Jessica, good luck in Beijing from your friends at Real Life Prosthetics

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Jessica Long:  
Bilateral, BK Amputee

Paralympic swimmer, multiple gold medalist and world record holder, ESPY winner, and Sullivan Award recipient

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