

Otto Bock Announces Purchase of Mobility Seating Manufacturer Tri Quality Inc.

MINNEAPOLIS, MN – Otto Bock US HealthCare, a global leader in advanced rehabilitation products, announced the acquisition of seating system manufacturer Tri Quality Incorporated. The privately-held company is located in Sacramento, CA, and all 28 employees are now part of the Otto Bock Company Group based in Duderstadt, Germany. Otto Bock has distributed Tri Quality's Nu-Tec planar seating for seven years, a successful partnership that ultimately led to today's purchase.

The recognized global leader in prosthetic devices since its inception nearly one hundred years ago, Otto Bock in recent years has added to its investment in rehabilitation with specialized focus on unique seating and positioning solutions. Tri Quality joins seven other manufacturing locations worldwide and brings a niche focus, from development to delivery, to Otto Bock's established breadth of offerings. With this purchase and the 2010 broad distributorship agreement with Leckey, Otto Bock offers the most types of seating options available today, from off the shelf options through OBSS shape systems CAD/CAM custom designs.

"Tri Quality is an exciting investment for us" said Matt Swiggum, Mobility Solutions Business Unit Director for Otto Bock US HealthCare. "It's not often that two companies have such clear synergy, from quality standards and customer satisfaction to a commitment to creating products that fit the patient's needs."

"I'm also excited that John Crane will be leading the business," added Swiggum. "John brings well-tuned sales experience and years of operations management in the DME industry to the table. I'm confident that he will help us capitalize globally on our investment."

Tri Quality was founded in 1994 and incorporated in 1996, when it entered the wheelchair aftermarket parts business. In 2004, Tri Quality purchased Scott Rehab Manufacturing and opened Nu-Tec Rehab, which sells custom planar seating and positioning products and accessories. In 2003, Tri Quality purchased IMEC, a wholesale wheelchair parts manufacturer.

Otto Bock has been involved in the mobility business in North America since 1980 when it purchased Canada-based Engineered Therapeutic Systems, a producer of foam plastic accessories designed for wheelchair use. By 1983, both manufacturing and R & D was taking place in Winnipeg as Otto Bock began making its own system of modular seating components for wheelchairs. The business expanded rapidly from there, including the acquisition of Zero Gravity cushions in Salt Lake City and the building of wheelchair development and manufacturing in Germany. Today, Otto Bock provides more than 20,000 rehab products to customers around the globe.

“Our global mobility business continues to grow,” stated Brad Ruhl, President of Otto Bock US HealthCare. “Bringing Tri Quality into the organization further expands the product range we can offer our customers today, as well as adds fuel to our development of cutting edge positioning systems in the future.”

Tri Quality Inc. will operate in their current location and their 28 employees will continue to serve customers as they have for more than 15 years.

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Minnesota-based Otto Bock HealthCare LP was established in 1958 as the Americas corporate headquarters of Otto Bock HealthCare, GmbH, based in Duderstadt, Germany. Otto Bock has more than 4,300 employees worldwide in 43 branches and produces over 40,000 types of prosthetic and orthotic components, mobility and rehabilitation products. (www.ottobockus.com)