

28.11.2024 – 10:12 Uhr

IKEA partners with 'SUITX by Ottobock' / 400+ exoskeletons deployed across 14 countries



IKEA partners with 'SUITX by Ottobock'

With 400+ exoskeletons deployed across 14 countries IKEA boosts workplace health

In a significant step towards improving workplace ergonomics, IKEA has deployed 400+ exoskeletons across 14 countries, marking a major milestone in its commitment to creating a better everyday life – not only for customers, but for its co-workers too.

The innovative wearable device, developed by 'SUITX by Ottobock', is designed to reduce physical strain on workers during tasks such as lifting, carrying, and other repetitive movements. The rollout highlights the IKEA commitment to prioritizing the health and safety of its global workforce while adapting to increasing customer demands.

"We are proud to be part of the IKEA vision for a healthier and more inclusive working environment. Together, we are implementing innovative solutions that not only reduce physical strain but also demonstrate how technology can make workplaces more human," says David Duwe, Vice President of SUITX by Ottobock Europe.

Addressing Workplace Challenges with Innovation

While automation has alleviated some manual tasks involving heavy lifting for workers, IKEA has continued to seek innovative, pragmatic ways to enhance workplace ergonomics. This drive led to the exploration of exoskeleton technology, which has now become an essential part of IKEA fulfilment operations.

"Our collaboration with 'SUITX by Ottobock' is a testament of how IKEA continues to invest in its people's wellbeing," says Marcus Baumgartner, Global Head of Fulfilment & Services, for IKEA Retail (Ingka Group). "Exoskeletons aim to minimize the negative impact of physical workload and fatigue on our co-workers' health. Thus, ensuring better quality of life both in and out of work, including reducing strains and giving our co-workers more energy after shifts."

Key Benefits for Workers

Through biochemical energy redistribution, exoskeletons are designed to redistribute forces within the body. They capture and store the user's own kinetic energy generated during movement and release it when needed, providing support to specific body regions. The introduction of exoskeletons is already showing tangible benefits:

- **Reduced Physical Strain:** Mechanical support reduces stress on muscles and joints, particularly during heavy lifting. One IKEA worker shared, "Thanks to the exoskeleton, I still have energy left to lift and play with my kids after a work shift."
- **Enhanced Safety:** The devices significantly lower the risk of musculoskeletal injuries. According to David Duwe, Vice President of SUITX at Ottobock Europe, "User posture improved by up to 65% over several weeks, based on daily sensor measurements. Knees and legs are used more often with a stable, straight back, reducing strain on the lower back and spine."

- **A More Inclusive Workplace:** Exoskeletons make tasks more accessible, fostering a more diverse workforce and creating ergonomic working conditions that appeal to potential workers.

A Global Movement

With exoskeletons already in use across 14 countries, IKEA is set to expand the program further, with India, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Japan, and China joining soon. The milestone of 400 exoskeletons is just the beginning of the IKEA journey towards enhancing workplace safety and health. By integrating cutting-edge technology into its operations, IKEA is not only addressing today's challenges but also setting the standard for a healthier, more ergonomic future in the workplace. Stay tuned as IKEA continues to implement innovative solutions that support its global co-worker community.

Please see the IKEA/Ingka newsroom for more information: [IKEA boosts workplace health with 400+ exoskeletons deployed across 14 countries | Ingka Group](#)

About 'SUITX by Ottobock'

Since 2012, SUITX has been developing body-worn support structures, called exoskeletons, to facilitate the everyday work of people performing physical labor. SUITX originated from the Robotics and Human Engineering Laboratory at the University of California, Berkeley. In late 2021, Ottobock and SUITX joined forces to develop groundbreaking exoskeletons under the name 'SUITX by Ottobock'. These exoskeletons are highly efficient and very light, preventing musculoskeletal disorders caused by heavy physical work.

About Ottobock

For more than 100 years, Ottobock has been developing innovative fitting solutions for people with reduced mobility. As a Human Empowerment Company, Ottobock promotes freedom of movement, quality for life and independence. This is supported by more than 9,000 employees. With innovative power, outstanding technical solutions and services in the fields of Prosthetics, Orthotics, NeuroMobility and Patient Care, they enable people in 135 countries to live their lives the way they want them to. As the world market leader in wearable human bionics, the company founded in 1919 is constantly setting new standards and pushing ahead with the digitalisation of the industry – together with its partners, the medical supply companies and international research institutions. Since 2018, Ottobock has been transferring its expertise in biomechanics to exoskeletons for ergonomic workplaces. The international activities of the company are coordinated from the head office in Duderstadt (state of Lower Saxony). Ottobock has been supporting the Paralympic Games with its technical expertise since 1988.

Gesa Liss

Public Relations Manager
Corporate Communications

Ottobock SE & Co. KGaA
Prenzlauer Allee 242 | 10405 Berlin | Germany
M +49 151 4416 1837
gesa.liss@ottobock.com
www.ottobock.com

Medieninhalte



(c)IKEA/Ingka



(c)IKEA/Ingka



(c)SUITX by
Ottobock

Diese Meldung kann unter <https://www.presseportal.de/en/pm/32079/5918741> abgerufen werden.