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## The Winners of the ispo Outdoor Awards 2008

### • Products dominate at ispo winter 08, which made outdoor sport safer

At this year's ispo Outdoor Award of ispo winter 08, a top-rate jury of experts again gathered under the chairmanship of Christof Schellhammer and Wolfgang Pohl; the jury members included Peter Fresia (Sporthaus Schuster), Frank Wacker (Outdoor Magazine), Andi Kern (DSV Aktiv), Peter Plattner (Berg & Steigen Magazine), Christoph Ebert (TU Munich), Thomas Bucher (Bergsteiger/CLIMB! Magazine), Markus Hefter and Petra Griesel (outdoor\_ispo). It was a question of selecting the most outstanding product innovations of the outdoor industry from the great number of submitted, mainly high-quality products. In the end, above all those products won, which put the safety aspect in sports in the forefront.

Here is an overview of the winners in the individual product categories:

### Winner in the Others Category

#### Power'n play: CU

The "CU" are prism glasses, which are worn during securing on principle, regardless of whether in a hall or outside. The person to be secured can be observed during climbing without the necessity of stretching out your head the whole time. As a result, brief "glances down" to relax the overtaxed cervical vertebrae are eliminated, and continual observation of your partner increases safety for climbing partners. In addition, the person securing can stay closer to the rock wall with the same head position as without CU, which provides substantial advantages for climber and securing person to the same degree in case the first climber falls. When the glasses are worn, there is a sufficiently large field of vision to still carry out all other activities dealing with securing.

The jury considered it above all important that the young manufacturer Power'n play put special emphasis on safety and health with its innovative goggles concept. In fact, the simple but ingenious product provides climbers in halls with completely new perspectives, which they will be loathe to do without after a short period of getting used to.

### Winner in the Hardware Category

### **Leki: Twister Interchangeable Basket System**

The new basket system "Twister" from Leki guarantees perfect adjustment to very different types of snow and backcountry conditions. The basket can be freely rotated 360° and is ideal for use on terrain with up to 45° inclines without the otherwise usual levering effects. In addition, it provides security against back-rotation. This minimizes the unwanted slipping together of the bottom part. The basket size can be adapted perfectly to every type of snow thanks to three different insertion rings using a sliding mechanism without tools. In the winter touring sector, two pole models Air Ergo 2 and 3 have been equipped with the new Twister baskets.

The jury was impressed that Leki has revolutionized ski pole baskets with a simple but function development for practical use and enabled adaptation to very different conditions in seconds. Snow sports enthusiasts have waited a long time for this customer-friendly development.

### **Winner in the Textiles Category**

#### **Rossignol: Harness Pants**

The "Harness" pants with integrated climbing harness make it possible for free-riders to be saved using ropes from unexpected emergencies in difficult to access terrain without the necessity of having to put on an extra harness. The new system patented by Rossignol is the result of close cooperation between the freeride team and the Cilao Company, specialist in developing climbing harnesses. The integrated harness cannot be removed from the pants and is so light that you hardly notice it (94 g with pants size M). It conforms to European, US American and Canadian standards. The pants are made of stretch material, are waterproof and breathable and consequently protect against cold, wind, snow and rain. The jury gave as reason for its choice that the fact that an extremely functional and user-friendly safety feature has been created for free-riders thanks to the integration of a rope harness in free-rider pants. The technical details are perfect with consideration of all relevant safety standards and without any disadvantages with respect to handling and comfort.

### **Winner in the Footwear Category**

#### **Hanwag: Ivalo GTX**

The "Ivalo GTX" from the Winter Trail line from Hanwag has a completely new technology for a winter sole. The "Ice Grip Sole" has a special rubber mixture in the relevant step zones, which even give you a hold on slippery ice. This is achieved by very small glass particles, which grip the ice surface and consequently act like sandpaper. The rough tread of the IceGrip sole rubber is just as durable as traditional shoe soles, because the glass technology is not only used on the outermost layer, but instead the complete rubber tread of the

IceGrip zones is composed of the maximum-grip mixture. The shoe is available for men and women with different trim. It has a long wearing life, can be resoled without problems, has a warm and waterproof lining made of GORE-TEX® Partelana and also provides all functional properties, which you expect from the top-rate winter shoes from Hanwag.

According to the jury, the traditional manufacturer Hanwag has revolutionized sole design with the embedding of glass particles with this classic winter/trekking shoe. Users are opened many options for using these shoes in winter sports with a considerable increase in safety and comfort thanks to this successful technical feature.

### **Winner in the Electronics Category**

#### **Petzl: Ultra Belt**

The Petzl "Ultra Belt" is an extremely high-performance headlamp with three adjustable illumination levels and rechargeable ACCU 4 ULTRA battery with a long cable. The "fore-head spotlight" was developed specifically for moving fast and high-endurance sports, because athletes have an extremely powerful, adjustable light (350 lumens) and a wide light beam with a considerable forward lighting during the complete time of their sports activity. The lamp, which has outstanding hold on a head, only weights 230 grams and is extremely robust for use in all weather and all imaginable activities.

Petzl documents its premium position among headlamp companies with its latest development, the Ultra Belt, according to the jury. Convincing solutions for technical details with the customary high-quality finish and outstanding light quality in this category make the Ultra Belt a product to be recommended for numerous ambitious people who love outdoor sports.

### **Winner in the Backcountry Category**

#### **Snowpulse: The "Life Bag"**

The "Life Bag" is an avalanche airbag with mechanical trigger, which can be accessed easily via an ergonomic hand movement. If it is pulled in the event of an avalanche, the 150 liter airbag is inflated in only three seconds. A winter sports enthusiast hit by an avalanche remains on his back and with head above the snow – similar to use of a life jacket – thanks to the special design. The Life Bag is the lightest and most compact airbag system on the market (weight of 1.4 kilograms) and takes only three liters of space in a backpack. As a result, there is still sufficient pack space for free-ride equipment. The Life Bag can be re-used, and the gas cylinder can be refilled by any Snowpulse dealer. Consequently, you can practice using the Life Bag without problems. A gauge in the backpack tells you how full the cylinder is at any time.

The jury considered Snowpulse the clear winner, because an innovative and cleverly designed safety concept was presented for all backcountry skiers with the Life Bag. Thanks to the consistent implementation of all known parameters, survival chances can be increased substantially when the Life Bag is used. Convincing solutions for details provide the Snowpulse Life Bag with an absolutely unique character and increase safety for users considerably without any sacrifices of comfort.

All winner products will be exhibited in the East Entrance of the New Munich Trade Fair Centre during ispo winter 08 from January 27 to 30, 2008.

Additional information is available at: [www.ispo-winter.com/link/de/19056507#19056507](http://www.ispo-winter.com/link/de/19056507#19056507)

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