



Schaeffler to be strategic partner of the German Ski Association

- Strategic technology partnership with the German Ski Association (DSV) to start in September 2025
- Schaeffler to contribute its technology know-how and innovation capability to support top performance in winter sports
- Special focus on innovative coating systems and materials analysis for skis

Herzogenaurach/Planegg, Germany | September 18, 2025 | From September, 2025, the Motion Technology Company Schaeffler will be a technology partner of the German Ski Association (DSV). The goal of the partnership is the joint development of innovative solutions to set new standards in top-level international winter sports. The focus will be on materials development, materials technology, materials analysis, surface modification and novel coating systems for skis in disciplines such as biathlon, cross-country, ski jumping, and alpine.

Schaeffler Chief Technology Officer Uwe Wagner says: “Schaeffler has very extensive technological know-how in motion technology, in both applications and fundamentals. A key element of this is our expertise in materials development and coatings. This deep understanding of friction in the context of different systems will enable us to refine and improve the technology used by elite skiers so that they can lift their performance even further. We are looking forward to our partnership with DSV, and to notching up many winter sports successes together.”

DSV National Coach for Science Karlheinz Waibel adds: “In Schaeffler we have a partner with the expertise and innovation capability needed to meet all our highly specific ski sports requirements. We will work together on further boosting our athletes’ performance through optimized material characteristics and innovative coatings, so as to achieve the best possible results.”

Coatings for top performance in elite sports competitions

A key focus of the partnership will be the development of surface coatings optimized for a diverse range of snow and weather conditions. As a leading surface technology supplier, Schaeffler has a broad portfolio of coatings. The company has the profound expertise in materials analysis needed to investigate

complex interactions between environmental conditions and material properties and hence identify new approaches. By fine-tuning tribological properties, it can modify coatings and optimize them for specific uses. This may involve giving the surface special hydrophobic or hydrophilic properties, for example, thereby optimizing ski performance with surfaces that repel or attract water. The Motion Technology Company will also work on developing highly sustainable coatings that are free of PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) and can be adapted according to the specific requirements of ski sports.

“Technology plays a decisive role in high-performance sport,” says Prof. Dr. Tim Hosenfeldt, Head of Central Technologies at Schaeffler. “By leveraging our technological capabilities – which span the entire value chain from high-resolution material analytics and optimization of tribological systems through to the development of optimal materials-based solutions for winter sports applications – we will be able to realize tangible performance benefits in terms of efficiency and reliability in close cooperation with DSV.”



(From left to right) Prof. Dr. Tim Hosenfeldt (Head of Central Technologies, Schaeffler), Karlheinz Waibel (National Coach for Science, DSV), Uwe Wagner (Chief Technology Officer, Schaeffler), and Wolfgang Maier (Executive Board Member for Sports, DSV) are pleased about the strategic technology partnership.

Photo: Schaeffler

Schaeffler Group – We pioneer motion

The Schaeffler Group has been driving forward groundbreaking inventions and developments in the field of motion technology for over 75 years. With innovative technologies, products, and services for electric mobility, CO₂-efficient drives, chassis solutions, and renewable energies, the company is a reliable partner for making motion more efficient, intelligent, and sustainable – over the entire life cycle. Schaeffler describes its comprehensive range of products and services by means of eight product families: from bearing solutions and all types of linear guidance systems through to repair and monitoring services. With around 120,000 employees and more than 250 locations in 55 countries, Schaeffler is one of the world's largest family-owned companies and ranks among Germany's most innovative companies.

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