

<News Release>

January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014

PR14-S006

## **Molten enters into exclusive agreement with the International Handball Federation**

**Molten's handball to be the official game ball used in all IHF sanctioned play**



Photo: (Left) President and CEO, Kiyoo Tamiaki, of Molten Corporation (Headquarters: Hiroshima City, Japan) and (Right) Dr. Hassan Moustafa, President of the International Handball Federation (Headquarters: Basle, Switzerland)

Molten Corporation, one of the world's leading manufacturers of competition quality sports balls, and the International Handball Federation (IHF) have signed an agreement naming Molten the official game ball of the IHF. Beginning with the 2014 Women's Junior World Championships held in Croatia on June 28, 2014, Molten's elite X5000 Series Handballs will be used in all games organized and sanctioned by the IHF. The partnership also includes the launch of a comprehensive strategic marketing initiative as well as collaboration on a variety of cross promotional elements.

### **Statement from Dr. Hassan Moustafa, President of the International Handball Federation**

Balls are a crucial part of handball – and therefore we are very proud to have a new, but highly experienced official ball partner at our side. Molten has gained experience in producing high-tech handballs for decades, they are passionate about our sport. In close cooperation with Molten, the International Handball Federation will work on perfect balls for perfect handball matches – following their claim “for the real game”. We are proud to have a new globally thinking and globally leading long-term partner.

### **Statement from Kiyoo Tamiaki, the President and CEO of the Molten Corporation**

“We are very pleased to begin our partnership with the IHF and the selection of Molten to be used as the official game ball in the world's most elite handball competitions. Molten is dedicated to being at the forefront of technological innovation with the goal of providing the highest quality and value to athletes throughout the world. We are honored to

# NEWS RELEASE

have been given this wonderful opportunity to partner with the IHF and we offer our heartfelt thanks to the IHF President, Dr. Moustafa, and all of those involved in serving the sport of handball. Guided by our brand statement 'For the real game,' Molten is committed to producing the absolute best products to fulfill and exceed the expectations of the handball community."

## ■ Official game ball of the IHF

### The Top of the Line X5000 Handball



- Ultra soft foam construction provides exceptional grip
- Premium cover material with optimum texture allows for enhanced ball control

Item Name	X5000	
Item Number	H3X5001	H2X5001
Size	Size-3	Size-2
Official Approval/ Examination	Officially approved by IHF	
Manufacturing Method	Hand-Sewn	
Material	Synthetic leather	
Country of Manufacture	Vietnam	

## ■ About the International Handball Federation

Founded in 1946, the IHF supervises all the federations in five continents: the Asian Handball Federation, African Handball Federation, Pan-American Team Handball Federation, Oceania Handball Federation and the European Handball Federation. The Head Office is located in Basle, Switzerland.

Website : <http://www.ihf.info/>

## ■ About Molten

Molten, a manufacturer of balls and sports equipment, has been making and marketing handballs, basketballs, volleyballs and soccer balls of uncompromising quality since 1958. Molten continues to raise global standards, supplying the official game balls and sports equipment for major leagues, teams and international tournaments around the world.

For further information, please visit our website at [www.molten.co.jp](http://www.molten.co.jp).

## ■ For the real game

Molten's brand statement, "For the real game", encapsulates what we hope to accomplish through our products and activities. It is our conviction that the real game happens only when impeccable balls and sports equipment enable athletes to realize their full potential and maximize performance.

■ Product image data (JPEG) is also available.

# NEWS RELEASE

Contact Information

Molten Corporation

International Market Sales & Marketing Department

Sports Division

Kenjiro Annoki

Tel: (+81-3)3625-7648

Fax: (+81-3)3625-7738