

PRESS RELEASE

REFPR005EN

In the 'Sports & Healthcare' category Refitech's carbon guide dog handle JEC 2019 Innovation Award finalist

Waalwijk, The Netherlands, 14 February 2019 – A carbon guide dog handle, produced by Refitech Carbon Components for the Royal Dutch Guide Dog Foundation (KNGF), has been picked as one of the finalists in the 'Sports & Healthcare' Category for a JEC 2019 Innovation Award. This new handle, that weighs less than 50% of the previous metal version, significantly improves the comfort for both the guide dog and the owner.

'We are absolutely proud that our product has been chosen as one of the finalists,' says Arthur Cooijmans, CEO of Refitech. 'It is now up to the international jury to determine if we are the winner in our category, which will be announced during the Awards Ceremony, on the 2nd day of JEC World,' he adds.

Refitech's lightweight carbon handle is part of a new guide dog harness, specially developed for KNGF. The design incorporates several novel features inspired by motor sports and kite surfing equipment: Once mounted on the harness, the carbon handle 'floats' above the dog's back, making it easier to locate for the owner. The stiffness of the design also improves the signalling of directions, vital as the guide dog helps its owner to navigate obstacles and through traffic.

Although originally designed for the Dutch market, the new harness has already the interest from official Dog Training Associations around the world. Refitech is looking for potential partners worldwide to market the guide dog harness and handle locally. 'The sales of the guide dog harness also mean a significant contribution to the KNGF resources for training guide dogs, which makes this an even more special and precious product to us, says Cooijmans.

At JEC World 2019, held from 12 to 14 March at the Parc des Expositions Paris-Nord Villepinte, Refitech will exhibit at the Holland Pavilion, Hall 5 – Booth E80. In addition the guide dog harness and handle will be on display at the 'Sports & LifeStyle' Innovation Planet.

About Refitech

Refitech specializes in engineering and producing industrial composite components. The company was founded in 1989 and provides composite solutions for several markets including industrial automation, UAV systems, medical equipment and marine systems. Services comprise composites engineering, prototyping, series production, including parts and components assembly, and CNC milling, while Refitech's standard tubes and connectors can be purchased directly online. In addition to its headquarters in Waalwijk, the Netherlands, Refitech has its own production facilities in Ningbo, China. For more information: www.refitech.nl.

Image 1



Caption:

A carbon guide dog handle, produced by Refitech Carbon Components for the Royal Dutch Guide Dog Foundation (KNGF), is one of the finalists in the 'Sports & Healthcare' Category for a JEC 2019 Innovation Award. *(Source: Refitech)*

Image 2



Caption:

Refitech's new carbon bracket for guide dog harnesses weighs less than 50% of the previous metal version, meaning more comfort for the dog and the owner. *(Source: Refitech)*

Note for editors (not for publication)

For more information or an image in high resolution, please contact:

Refitech

Bas Nijpels

(Sales Engineer)

Tel: +31 416 330 589

E-mail: b.nijpels@refitech.nl

Bridge B2B (agency contact)

Peter Ibes

Mob: + 31 657 321 649

E-mail: p.ibes@bridge-b2b.nl