



Next Step Orthotics & Prosthetics Selected as iWalk Certified Bionics Center

Charter Members to Distribute the PowerFoot BiOM Lower Leg System, Scientifically Proven to Normalize Walking for Lower-Limb Amputees

Manchester, NH, September 20, 2011—[Next Step Orthotics & Prosthetics](#) today announced its distinction as an [iWalk Certified Bionics Center](#). With this designation, [Next Step Orthotics & Prosthetics](#) will serve as one of the nation's first prosthetics providers to commercially offer the [PowerFoot BiOM](#), the first robotic lower leg system to normalize metabolic efficiency and increase self selected walking speed for amputees. The BiOM features advanced bionics technology developed by [Dr. Hugh Herr](#), an MIT-based, world-renowned innovator and researcher in the fields of biomechanics, biological motion control and augmentation technologies.

Next Step Orthotics & Prosthetics recognition as an iWalk Certified Bionics Center signifies the organization's standing as one of the leading prosthetic providers in the nation, including a demonstrated excellence in client service, clinical care and quality fabrication. As a charter member of the BiOM distribution network, Next Step Orthotics & Prosthetics continues its commitment to embracing and partnering with proven technology suppliers to provide the best prosthetic solutions available for amputees.

PowerfootBiOM is available immediately at Next Step Orthotics & Prosthetics. For more information, please visit Center www.nextstepoandp.com.

"As a company that is sought out to test the latest advances in prosthetics, we are at the forefront of emerging technologies in the industry and are thrilled to be able to fit our clients with iWalk's PowerFoot BiOM," said Next Step Orthotics & Prosthetics President Matthew J. Albuquerque. "The BiOM's sophisticated design and revolutionary function will allow our clients to achieve and exceed their active lifestyle goals and to lead the most fruitful, productive lives possible. The potential to essentially give people their lives back is amazing."

The BiOM is the world's first bionic lower leg system that utilizes robotics to replicate muscles and tendons that replace the action of the foot, Achilles tendon and calf muscle. Scientific research proves that the [BiOM normalizes level ground walking](#) for lower-limb amputees by enabling them to walk at the same speed, and with the same metabolic energy, as their peers with intact biological limbs.

"Through partnerships with our iWalk Certified Bionic Centers, the concept of commercially available bionic technology for lower-limb amputees is now a reality," said Timothy McCarthy, iWalk's president

and CEO. “iWalk is thrilled to include Next Step Orthotics and Prosthetics, and their staff of experts, as part of this charter network of innovative distribution partners.”

For more information on the iWalk Certified Bionics Centers and the BiOM technology, please visit www.iwalk.com.

About iWalk

iWalk is *the* bionics company advancing technology to restore natural movement for lower-limb amputees. Its proprietary BiOM uses robotics to replicate muscles and tendons for the first time, normalizing walking at all speeds and all terrains—truly bringing in the age of bionics. The company was founded in 2006 by Dr. Hugh Herr, director of the [Biomechatronicsgroup](#) at the MIT Media Lab.

Privately held and headquartered in Bedford, Mass, the company has received funding and support from the [U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs](#), the [U.S. Army’s Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center](#) (TATRC), and leading venture firms [WFD Ventures](#) , [General Catalyst Partners](#) and [Sigma Partners](#). For more information, please visit www.iwalk.com or follow us on [Facebook](#) or Twitter ([@iWalk BiOM](#)).

About Next Step Orthotics & Prosthetics

Next Step Orthotics & Prosthetics is a nationally-recognized, privately held company headquartered in Manchester, NH, with offices in Newton, MA and Warwick, RI. The company provides professional prosthetic services to clients of all ages. The company is practitioner-owned and operated. Some staff members are amputees. All staff members work together to provide an atmosphere where sincere care can be given, dignity and respect can be attained and where people are treated as people. Known for their innovation, Next Step prosthetists and clinicians work with research facilities and prosthetic manufacturers in developing new prosthetic technologies and components. Next Step’s clients are often invited to beta-test these technologies and products, giving them access to the latest developments in the field.