

The Power of Giving Back



See the people
behind our
products and services.

We recognize that strong communities are advantageous for growth and prosperity. Worldwide, our employees look for ways to give back, strengthen community programs and support worthwhile causes.

***Editor's Note:** People Power is about recognizing our employees for their selfless service and dedication to being a part of something bigger than themselves by giving back to their communities. We are happy to highlight in this issue three examples of the passionate efforts of our employees and how they're playing a role in making their communities a better place to live and work.*

Duisburg's Turbo Bikers Conquer Challenging Circuit to Raise Money for Local Charities

For the last eight years, the Turbo Bikers team at Siemens Duisburg, Germany location has participated in Europe's largest non-stop 24-hour mountain bike race. Held in Duisburg, this annual event attracts approximately 2,400 cyclists. The winner is the team that bikes the most rounds; each round is 5.3 miles, or 8.5 kilometers.

In August, 450 teams (consisting of one to eight people) competed on the 262 foot (80 meter) elevation gain Landschaftspark Nord circuit. The Landschaftspark public park in Duisburg was designed in the early 1990s as a tribute to the area's industrial past as a coal and steel production plant.

"You really need a mountain bike to conquer the track because there is no street and part of this circuit involves going through the old plant," says Peter Bongartz, the Turbo Biker's lead organizer responsible for Services Sales and Marketing for the Americas at Siemens. "And because we bike 24 hours non-stop – as many as 373 miles (600 km) per team – sleep is an elusive luxury for a while," Bongartz added.

About six weeks prior to the race, the Turbo Bikers begin soliciting colleagues, friends and family for either a fixed donation or an agreement to pay a specific amount for each mile (km) biked – typically between one USD cent, or 0,01 euro and USD 1.65, or 1.50 euro per mile / km.

This year, the Turbo Biker teams (two teams of eight and six teams of four) biked approximately 373 miles (600 km) in a 24-hour time period and raised nearly USD 15,400 (14,000 euros). Proceeds, including race entry fees, were donated to the Bunter Kreis organization that supports families with premature infants, disabled children and children with chronic illness or disabilities and the VKM organization that provides consultation, training and school inclusion services to people with handicaps.

"Since the team's inception we have raised approximately USD 93,000 (85,500 euro) to help local organizations," says Bongartz. "We are well aware that help is needed worldwide, but we choose to donate to organizations close to home and ensure that 100 percent of the donations go directly toward helping these children and their families."

Further information and photos can be found at: www.turbo-biker.de. ●

