



Press release

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Sympatex® supports Team Joachim Franz in the battle against Aids

20 Countries – 19 Summits – 9 Weeks: Sympatex is supporting one of the most spectacular campaigns in the global battle against Aids. Joachim Franz and his team are setting an exceptional and all the more indisputable example with the “cape2cape expedition 2008”, and then with the “world aids awareness expedition”.

The summit has been scaled – Aids figures should not be able to rise any further! With a spectacular expedition true to this motto the extreme sportsman from Wolfsburg, Joachim Franz and his team will call up for the battle against HIV and subsequently for a large global awareness-raising campaign. The tour will go from the Norwegian North Cape to the Cape of Good Hope at the southern tip of Africa. In so doing, the highest mountains of the countries traversed are to be climbed in record time, so as to place a sign of awareness symbolically on the summit. In this connection, mountain climbers from all over the world are being called upon to carry on with the expedition and take the message around the globe.

Sympatex, the Munich specialist for functional systems, is sponsoring Team Joachim Franz. The high-performance Sympatex membrane offers the perfect solution for the challenges of the expedition. “We already represent environmental protection and sustainability with our products. We also consider it to be a social obligation to support the battle against Aids”, explains Thomas Baierlein, Managing Director of Sympatex Technologies. The Munich specialist for functional systems also supported the last “aids awareness expedition” across Germany, which was personally promoted by Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel.

“The topic of Aids is on the verge of disappearing from the consciousness of people in the western world – but the situation worldwide is becoming all the more ominous”, says Baierlein. “Joachim Franz and his team are making a stand against this oblivion. We see this task as being categorically necessary, and also want to do our bit.”

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"With his background Joachim Franz himself is the best example of how sport can have a big effect. Just like he and his team, we champion peak performance and commitment – the perfect basis for our co-operation", Baierlein goes on to explain. "Especially the sporting aspect of the campaign imparts thoughtfulness. The power and charisma of his expeditions set an example worldwide – against oblivion, against suppression, but for a conscious dealing with the subject of Aids."

For several years now, Joachim Franz has successfully lead "aids awareness expeditions" throughout the world. He was directly confronted with the suffering of those afflicted on his expeditions through Asia and Africa at the start of his career as an extreme sportsman. Here he set himself the target of having a hand in the battle against Aids, and has since then made use of the potential of sport for humanitarian campaigns and awareness training. Whether it's on the mountain bike in the Sahara and South Africa, using crampons in the eternal ice of the Kirgizia and the Andes, or conquering the legendary Panamericana by bike – these extraordinary expeditions always have the same goal in mind: to attract interest and gain empathy for the worldwide fight against the immune deficiency disease, Aids.

The concept of the "aids awareness expeditions" is to combine education, commitment, volunteering, educational work and acquire donations, in one successful model of prevention work at home and abroad. Joachim Franz and his team are working closely together with UNAIDS, the relevant specialist forum of the United Nations. The whole financing will come entirely from donations.

For further information go to
team-joachim-fanz.de
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