



Bridgestone Sales (Thailand) Company Limited  
990 Abdulrahim Place, Floor 16, Rama IV Road  
Silom Subdistrict, Bang rak District,  
Bangkok 10500  
Telephone: (02) 636 - 1505 - 32  
Fax: (02) 636-1543 - 44

## **Bridgestone Tire and Rubber Expertise Supports Barrier-less Bus Access in Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 Athlete Village**

**Tokyo (September 4, 2019)** – Bridgestone Corporation (Bridgestone), the world's largest tire and rubber manufacturer and the Official Tire of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, today announced that its extensive tire and material expertise has helped produce a new solution that will deliver barrier-less bus access in the newly-constructed athlete village for the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020.

Leveraging its knowledge of commercial bus tires and rubber, Bridgestone is working with a collaborative group in Japan to develop a new curbstone design that allows buses to pull closer to the curb. The design of the curb includes a specially-engineered slope that more smoothly interacts with the shape of the tire to decrease wear of tire sidewall and vibration. It is also developed at a height more aligned with the most common sizes of buses and bus tires. The result is a significantly smaller gap between the curb and bus entrance, which provides easier and safer on-and-off access for passengers – especially wheelchair users, people with strollers, and senior citizens.

The new barrier-less docking system was recently introduced in Okayama, Japan, and its installation within the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Village is scheduled to be completed in February 2020. The company continues to explore opportunities to introduce the new solution in other locations in Tokyo and communities across the country to benefit people in Japan beyond Tokyo 2020.



“Bridgestone was founded on a mission of serving society, and we bring that to life every day through our efforts to improve how people move, live, work and play,” said Masaaki Tsuya, Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer and Representative Executive Officer, Bridgestone Corporation. “We have some of the world's top experts in tire and rubber science committed to solving the evolving needs and challenges of a world in constant motion. Through projects like this, we're focused on leveraging our vast knowledge to help create advanced solutions that remove barriers and increase accessibility for all people -- in public bus transportation and beyond.”



Bridgestone has been developing the system in collaboration with Yokohama National University, the Japan Transportation Planning Association, and Advance Co., Ltd.

As the only Worldwide Olympic and Paralympic Partner with its global headquarters in the host city, Bridgestone is proud to provide its products, services, solutions and advanced technologies to the Tokyo 2020 experience for people of all abilities. The Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 are one of several upcoming milestone moments where Bridgestone will showcase its new, industry-leading technology concepts and ongoing transformation to become a truly global company. The company will issue additional announcements regarding its contributions to Tokyo 2020 and beyond over the coming months.

**Location:** Primary bus stop in Olympic and Paralympic Village, Harumi 5-chome Chuo-ku, Tokyo

- Units delivered: 1
- Size/Length : 394.3m (1,294 feet)
- Completion time : February 2020

**Location:** Bus stops at Korakuen Garden in Okayama City

- Units delivered: 6
- Length: 12 m (each)
- Start of use: June 10, 2019



*Barrier-less bus docking system*

For more information, please visit <https://www.bridgestone.com/responsibilities/mobility/>.

For more information on Bridgestone, please contact Keith Cawley (cawleykeith@bfusa.com) or Daisuke Baba (d.baba@bridgestone.com).

#### **About Bridgestone Corporation:**

*Bridgestone Corporation, headquartered in Tokyo, is the world's largest tire and rubber company. In addition to tires for use in a wide variety of applications, it also manufactures a broad range of diversified products, which include industrial rubber and chemical products and sporting goods. Its products are sold in over 150 nations and territories around the world.*

*In Thailand, Bridgestone has managed to achieve sustainable growth and success through a great confidence from end-users, dealers, and automotive manufacturers since its production 50 years ago. Through our history, the company has shown a great determination to research, invent, and create excellent products that are suitable for domestic use. Additionally, together with well selected raw*

*materials, state-of-the-art production facilities and machines, and highest standard of quality control, these enable Bridgestone to journey on the same path with corporate mission – “Serving Society with Superior Quality.”*

**About Bridgestone Corporation’s Worldwide Olympic and Paralympic Partnerships:**

*Bridgestone Corporation, headquartered in Tokyo, is the world’s largest tire and rubber company and operates with a mission of “Serving Society with Superior Quality.” Bridgestone proudly became a Worldwide Olympic Partner in 2014 and a Worldwide Paralympic Partner in 2018. The company has global rights to the Olympic Movement and Paralympic Movement through to 2024, a period that includes the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020, Beijing 2022 and Paris 2024. Bridgestone is dedicated to delivering products, services and solutions that improve the way people move, live, work and play, and its commitment to the Olympic Movement and Paralympic Movement continues a history of sport and innovation dating back more than 100 years. Bridgestone activities related to its Worldwide Olympic and Paralympic Partnerships are guided by a global “Chase Your Dream” message, which intends to inspire people to overcome obstacles and persevere in pursuit of their goals. As a worldwide partner, Bridgestone has marketing rights that include its full range of tires, tire services and selected automotive vehicle services, self-propelled bicycles, seismic isolation bearings, and a variety of building and industrial products.*

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For more information, please contact:

Ms. Pattarawall Khanthong                      Corporate Public Relations Section Manager  
Bridgestone Sales (Thailand) Co., Ltd.                      Tel: 0-2636-1505 Ext. 2381  
Email: [pattarawall.khanthong@bridgestone.com](mailto:pattarawall.khanthong@bridgestone.com)