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## Molten to Supply the Official Match Ball Designed Exclusively for the UEFA Europa League



Molten Corporation (headquarters: Hiroshima, Japan; president & CEO: Kiyoo Tamiaki), a manufacturer of competition quality sports balls and equipment, and the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) (headquarters: Nyon, Switzerland; president: Aleksander Čeferin) have announced a new partnership agreement for Molten to become an Official Licensing Partner of the UEFA Europa League. The partnership will start as early as the 2018/19 season.

Based on the agreement, Molten will design the official match ball for all the matches of 2018/19 UEFA Europa League exclusively. This will be the first time that Molten has provided an official match ball for UEFA competition, the UEFA Europa League.

**Commenting on the deal, Guy-Laurent Epstein, Marketing Director of UEFA Events SA, said:**

“We are very excited to work with Molten as a new official match ball supplier for the UEFA Europa League. With Molten we introduce one of the world’s leading ball manufacturers to the UEFA Europe League. Their professionalism is outstanding and we are eager to see how the partnership will grow the passion and energy of the competition across the world.”

**Kiyo Tamiaki, president & CEO of Molten Corporation, commented:**

“It is our great pleasure to solidify our partnership with UEFA, allowing Molten’s ball to be used as the official match ball in the UEFA Europa League. We are honored by the opportunity, and we offer our sincere thanks to UEFA President Aleksander Čeferin and all of the involved parties for their support and kindness. Molten strives to be at the cutting edge of technological innovation, are committed to helping to further the growth and success of the UEFA Europa League by developing and supplying the absolute highest quality and value products for the greater football community.”

■ **About the UEFA Europa League**

The UEFA Europa League is the world’s largest professional club football competition. From the qualification stages for the competition each season, the UEFA Europa League involves over 180 professional football teams from across Europe, representing 55 countries.

205 games will be played as of Group-Stage phases to crown the winner of the UEFA Europa League at the end of each season in May.

2018–2019 UEFA Europa League

Schedule: Qualifying round - From July 2018 to August 2018

Group stage - From September 2018 to December 2018

Knockout phase - From February 2019 to May 2019

Venue of the 2018–2019 UEFA Europa League Final: Baku (Azerbaijan)

■ **About Molten**

Molten, a manufacturer of balls and sports equipment, has been making and marketing basketballs, handballs, soccer balls, and volleyballs, of uncompromising quality since 1958. Molten continues to raise global standards, supplying the official game balls and sports equipment for major leagues, teams and international tournaments around the world.

For further information, please visit [www.molten.co.jp/sports/en/](http://www.molten.co.jp/sports/en/)

■ **For the real game**

Molten's brand statement, "For the real game", encapsulates what we hope to accomplish through our products and activities. It is our conviction that the real game happens only when impeccable balls and sports equipment enable athletes to realize their full potential and maximize performance.

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