



# THE SUSPENSION SPECIALIST

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Proven Results 2009/2010: Hayward Suspension Bikes have brought home 12 National Championships  
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## SUSPENSION NEWS

Winter is here (if you can call this winter after 6 years in Austria!) so I decided to head over to Europe to try catch a little of their summer, and to see what is going on in the suspension world. It seems the global financial crisis has hit hard in Europe and I was surprised to find many big companies feeling the pinch pretty badly. It is no secret that the recreational toys have been hard hit as times get tougher.

I had fun visiting all my old work mates at the new "WP Suspension Austria." During the last couple years KTM has slowly moved the WP production lines from their previous headquarter in Holland down to KTM in Austria, and last year a new WP factory was built in Austria near to KTM. I left Austria just before they officially moved into the new building, and now had some time to look around the new factory and catch up with the latest developments. The new premises is huge and has rows of production lines now in place. Suspension development where I worked is now also much bigger and has great new modern workshops. From October this year all WP suspension will be made in Austria and in Holland remains only the factory race team suspension developers and technicians.

WP Suspension Austria will not only make suspension for KTM, but also for BMW as well as other brands. Aftermarket race suspension will also now all be produced in Austria. I hope that it proves a successful venture for WP as at the moment production numbers have been cut pretty dramatically in order to weather the financial storm. I am sure they will get through and my personal

feeling is that they will come out stronger in the end. While I was there production at both WP and KTM was not working and those big halls that used to bustle with activity felt kind of spooky without all the workers. Let's hope things get better soon.

Another interesting place I visited was in Andreani Suspension in Italy. Andreani is one of the biggest suspension specialists in Europe and is distributor for Ohlins in Italy, as well as worldwide distributor for Marzocchi. Giuseppe Andreani is an interesting guy and has huge experience in suspension and a good team behind him. Andreani is responsible for many race teams in Europe in all types of racing at the highest level. I am happy I met with him as now I can distribute Marzocchi parts in South Africa in the future as well as piston kits for road racing, or factory suspension kits for Marzocchi as well as works suspension build by his company. I wish I had had more time there because he invited me to work in his workshops for a couple days. I am sure that is an offer I will definitely take up in the future as it would be interesting to get to know them all better.

So as you can see it was a successful and interesting trip to Europe as I made some good contacts to use in the future to help all you riding guys with all types of suspension. I am happy to say that Hayward Suspension now has parts available for KYB, Showa, WP, Sachs and Ohlins, and is also the official distributor in South Africa for Fox Racing Shox and Marzocchi. If you have any suspension related questions or dealer enquiries please do not hesitate to contact me.