

February 5, 2021

Molten to Supply the Official Matchball Designed Exclusively for the UEFA Europa League & UEFA Europa Conference League



Molten Corporation (headquarters: Hiroshima, Japan; president & CEO: Kiyo 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 that they have agreed to renew the partnership agreement for Molten to continue supplying the official matchball as the Official Licensing Partner of the UEFA Europa League. In addition, Molten will also become the Official Licensing Partner of the UEFA Europa Conference League, a newly launched third European club competition.

Based on the agreement, the Molten ball will be used exclusively in all the matches of 2021/22 UEFA Europa League/UEFA Europe Conference League, from the group stage onwards

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

“We are delighted to extend our excellent relationship with Molten as the official match ball supplier of the UEFA Europa League. In addition, we are excited that Molten will supply official matchballs for the newly created UEFA Europa Conference League. Molten is a trusted matchball supplier of the highest quality and will be key to the success of the UEFA Europa League and UEFA Conference League in the 2021-2024 seasons.”

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

“Molten feels privileged to announce our continued partnership with the UEFA Europa League. We are also thrilled to announce an additional partnership with UEFA by becoming the official matchball for the UEFA Europa Conference League. We are honored to have the opportunity to provide our highest quality footballs to these internationally renowned club competitions, thanks to the support of UEFA President Aleksander Čeferin and everyone involved to make these partnerships possible. Molten continues to develop and provide the absolute highest quality products with technological innovation for the greater football community to fulfill the brand statement “For the real game”. We will continue to demonstrate our commitment to excellence and contribute to the continued success of the UEFA Europa League and UEFA Europa Conference League.”

■ **About the UEFA Europa League**

With the introduction of the UEFA Europa Conference League from next season, the UEFA Europa League will under-go a number of changes. The group stage will be reduced from 48 to 32 teams – eight groups of four. The eight group winners progress automatically to the round of 16.

2021–2022 UEFA Europa League

Schedule: Qualifying round - From July 2021 to August 2021

Group stage - From September 2021 to December 2021

Knockout phase - From February 2022 to May 2022

Venue of the 2021–2022 UEFA Europa League Final: Seville (Spain)

■ **About the UEFA Europa Conference League**

A total of 184 teams will be involved over the course of the season in the UEFA Europa Conference League including at least one from each of the 55 associations and 46 clubs transferring from either the UEFA Champions League or UEFA Europa League. There will be eight groups of four teams, followed by knockout round play-offs, the round of 16, quarter-finals, semi-finals and final.

2021–2022 UEFA Europa Conference League

Schedule: Qualifying round - From July 2021 to August 2021

Group stage - From September 2021 to December 2021

Knockout phase - From February 2022 to May 2022

Venue of the 2021–2022 UEFA Europa Conference League Final: Tirana (Republic of Albania)

■ **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/

■ 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.

■ Contact

Ryo Kurahashi
International Market Sales & Marketing Department
Sports Division
Molten Corporation
Tel: (+81-3)3625-7648
Fax: (+81-3)3625-7738