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## **FIS COMPETITION FACTS – Viessmann FIS World Cup Cross-Country**

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Viessmann FIS World Cup Cross-Country at Otepää (EST) on December 27th, 2007

### **World Cup victory for Teichmann**

**Axel Teichmann from Germany won the Individual competition over 15 km in classical technique in the Estonian wintersport metropolis Otepää.**

Former World Champion Axel Teichmann of Germany produced a storming finish for record his first victory after a two years break in the 15 km classical race at Otepää Estonia. The German was only ninth at the 8.4 km mark, 8.8 seconds behind leader Odd-Bjoern Hjelmeset from Norway but in the finish he beat another Norwegian World and Olympic champion Frode Estil by 6.4 seconds. Hjelmeset finished third, 28.7 seconds behind winner.

Franz Goering of Germany was fourth, home crowd favourite Jaak Mae (EST) finished fifth and World Cup overall leader Tobias Angerer (GER) sixth.

For Teichmann it was totally the 6<sup>th</sup> World Cup victory and the first after his great season 2004/2005 when he was also winning the overall World Cup. Frode Estil reached today in his last World Cup season the first podium place of the season and his team mate Odd-Bjoern Hjelmeset could celebrate today this 16<sup>th</sup> podium place in his career.

Tobias Angerer, the winner of the Viessmann FIS Tour de Ski and the 6<sup>th</sup> of today's race is in the lead of the World Cup ranking with 762 points, ahead of Alexander Legkov (RUS, 25<sup>th</sup> place today) with 573 points and Tor Arne Hetland (NOR, 448 points), who was not competing in the today's race. In the Distance World Cup Legkov is leading with one point ahead of Angerer (253 points) and on third place is the Norwegian Eldar Roenning (205).

Number of participants/ participating nations: 59 men/ 18 nations

Spectators: 13,500

Number of Media/TV on site and HBC: 135 Media / 8 TV on-site / EETV was the HBC

Weather: snow, -5,5 °C

Snow Conditions: powder

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Special remarks:

Course ladies: Height difference: 44m; Maximum climb: 42m; Total climb: 508m, Length of lap: 3.75 km, Numbers of Laps: 4;

Pictures:

Please note that high quality action and podium pictures from today's competitions are available for purchase through the Internet portal offered by Nordic Focus, FIS Partner for photos from the Nordic Disciplines, at [www.menzipics.ch/info/indexfisevents.html](http://www.menzipics.ch/info/indexfisevents.html)

**Quotes:**

**Axel Teichmann (GER):** A lot of hard work has been done. But I've skied very little. Just once yesterday. We have had no snow and I have been roller-skiing and running. So before the race I didn't have a clue what my shape would be like. It's important that I'm healthy now and can continue preparations for World Champs. Sapporo? I don't know yet which distances I'll compete in. But we have a big goal there: to win gold in relay. We've won some World Cup events but still not a Championship. Preparations for World Championships? I'll be in Italy, good conditions there for training. But I guess altitude training is not that important ahead of Sapporo as it was before the Olympics in Turin.

**Frode Estil (NOR):** I'm in very good shape and I have to be satisfied with the race. During the race I heard that my times were mainly compared with Odd-Bjorn. It wasn't before than just some two kilometres before the finish that I heard of Axel the first time. He was only one second behind and then I knew that he would beat me. Because he has such a strong finish. I had good start and a good middle part in the end I was sure that Axel would be faster. Before Sapporo I'll stay home and train in good conditions. I'll not go to high altitude. I'll travel to Sapporo on February 13. World Champs: I hope to take part in pursuit 50K and relay. And I hope for classic leg in relay this time! Yes, it's my last season and I hope for nice finish for my career, a medal from Sapporo.

**Odd-Bjoern Hjelmeset (NOR):** It was a really good race. I think that if conditions had been like yesterday then my result would have been much better. I lost quite much time on one lap to Frode but the last lap was good. It's still a lot of time till the World Championships. My



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shape is good, but maybe it'll be even better in Sapporo. In World Champs I hope to start in sprint, relay and 50 kilometre race. And I think that after the tomorrows sprint race I'll sit here again (press conference)

For complete results please visit [www.fis-ski.com](http://www.fis-ski.com)

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