

Smart helmet can send SOS signals from the slopes



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A helmet can offer much more than protection when it comes to extreme sports. We've previously seen a [helmet for motorcyclists](#) that gives 360 degree vision and an innovative solution to facilitate [hands-free group communication](#). However, now, skiers and snowboarders are getting the smart helmet service.

The [Snowtide helmet from Swagtron](#), provides assistive communication technology to users. Communication is tricky in extreme sports, when users are wearing a lot of bulky kit in harsh environments. The helmet functions as a bluetooth-enabled and immersive sound headset that connects to a user's smartphone. This enables a range of features, including listening to music and podcasts, and receiving phone calls. A connected app lets users add friends for group communications. These group chats can be accessed by the push of a button on the helmet, therefore functioning like a walkie talkie. However, through mobile data, users can communicate over greater distances and even contact other users anywhere in the world.

Additionally, Snowtide also features smart impact detection. If a user suffers a serious fall, the helmet will autonomously emit a time-delayed SOS signal. Presumably so users can cancel the alert if triggered as a false alarm. It is feasible to set up multiple emergency contacts through the Snowtide smartphone app. The helmet also acts as a tracking wearable. It collects data on the slopes of the user's performance, allowing users to track their progress over time.

The Snowtide helmet is available now for USD 165.

Takeaway: Extreme sports are a fun, challenging way to stay active. However, the isolation and risk of injury puts a lot of potential users off. There are now many technologies we regularly cover that could be applied to extreme sport situations to make them safer (low-energy batteries and communication, wearable tech in clothing fibres, more durable materials; the list goes on). Could your business offer tech solutions in the extreme sports industry?

Website: www.swagtron.com

Contact: support@swagtron.com