

CASE STUDY

ATOMIC – SKIERS ADVISING SKIERS IN THE ONLINE STORE

Skiing is an emotional sport, and skiers strongly identify with their equipment. They have high expectations for quality and purchasing guidance, as choosing the right equipment is crucial for their performance and overall skiing experience. Atomic has established itself as a brand that derives its expertise directly from the experiences of its athletes. Their genuine ski knowledge, passion, and individuality is reflected in both product development and customer advice.

Atomic wanted to bring this ambition into its online store and create a truly engaging, authentic customer experience. To achieve this, they turned to GUURU Solutions, with the goal to integrate the powerful knowledge and energy of their community into online advice.



ABOUT ATOMIC:

Atomic is a renowned brand in alpine sports, represented by world-class athletes like Mikaela Shiffrin (USA), Lucas Pinheiro Braathen (Brazil/Norway) and Aleksander Kilde (Norway).

Since 1955, Atomic has stayed true to its core mission of developing powerful innovations for skiers, by skiers. Now part of the Amer Sports Group and with an annual turnover of US\$270 million, Atomic continues to shape the future of skiing.

THE CHALLENGE

Atomic wanted to offer expert advice at the product level on its online store—a critical need in the highly technical world of skiing. Since firsthand expertise was a must, it could not be delegated to external service providers. "Our external customer service team in Barcelona couldn't cover the nuances of skiing," explains Stefan Lettner, Global Head of eCommerce. Often, product inquiries would be forwarded to product managers, making the process inefficient.

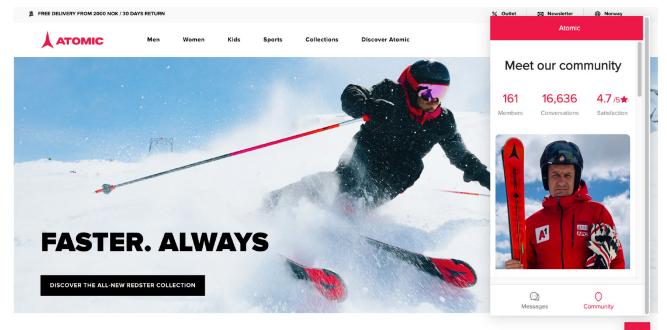
GUURU provided an innovative solution: integrating experienced skiers from the Atomic community into online advice.

"We're amazed at how much knowledge the community has about our products. And it's not just the expertise—they bring a lot of enthusiasm for skiing and the brand into their customer-to-customer advice. That's, of course, a huge bonus!"

BUILDING THE ATOMIC COMMUNITY

Atomic built a community of passionate skiers, instructors, and brand fans through GUURU's platform. Through their Pro Club newsletter, Atomic invited interested individuals to participate in the Community Advice Program. The response was overwhelming. After completing a product-specific knowledge test, around half of the candidates qualified.

These Guurus now share their expert knowledge and enthusiasm for Atomic with shoppers, providing valuable realtime advice in our country-specific online stores.



INTEGRATION AND MANAGEMENT

The community setup is easy. GUURU's platform automates community onboarding by running, evaluating, and processing test results. To integrate the community live chat into Atomic's online store, all it takes is a simple copy-paste of the script. The look and feel can be customized via GUURU's Partner Portal to ensure alignment with Atomic's brand identity.

"We decided to display the chat on all pages because we want our customers to have access to personal advice at any point during their shopping experience," says Lettner. Through the Partner Portal, Atomic can monitor conversations in real-time, manage Guuru profiles, and analyze performance metrics.



When someone asks me, 'Which ski should I buy?', I first ask, 'What ski are you currently using?' They tell me the brand, and then I help them find the right Atomic ski."

Bogdan
Atomic Ski Enthusiast & ATOMIC Guuru

Guuru since August 2023 Avg. rating: 5/5

Customer feedback after a conversation with Bogdan:

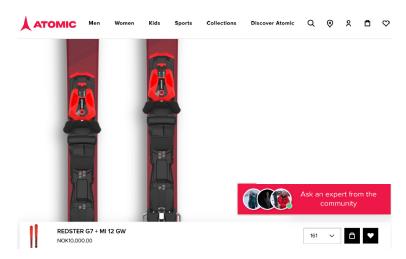
"Very knowledgeable and was able to help me a lot. Gave me great advice on the FIS models, which many people have no idea about."



DIFFERENTIATION THROUGH LIVE COMMUNITY ADVICE

Community Advice is now a key component in Atomic's brand strategy to create a truly differentiated online experience.

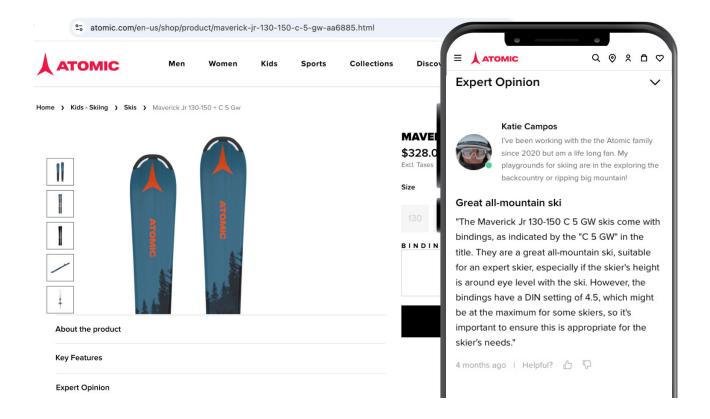
"What matters most to us is excellent customer experience in the direct-to-consumer space," says Lettner. "It's even interesting from an omni-channel perspective: customers inform themselves on the website. It ultimately doesn't matter where the skis are bought." By integrating authentic, skier-to-skier advice, they've gone beyond traditional customer service to offer something unique that their competitors don't—real advice from passionate, experienced skiers.



This approach has resonated deeply with customers: the community chat is now available across all European online stores, and after impressive results in 2023/24, North America has also adopted the concept. Customer satisfaction (4.7/5) and NPS (60-80) exceed the values of Atomic's regular customer service metrics by 30-40%.

UGC FROM COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Conversations in the Community Advice Chat are insightful and rich with valuable product insights. Atomic wanted to make these authentic product opinions were accessible to every visitor—not just those using the chat. To make this happen, they implemented GUURU's Community Content.



This UGC tool identifies meaningful product opinions from live conversations, extracts them, and displays them as curated content in the Partner Portal. Once approved, these insights are seamlessly pulled into relevant product pages, ensuring that even visitors who don't start a chat can still access recent, authentic user-generated content about the products they're interested in. "This allows customers who find it too much of a hurdle to start a chat to still access top-notch information," explains Lettner.

RESULTS:

The integration of GUURU's Community Advice Solution has shown measurable success:

- Community chat available in 7 languages, 24/7
- NPS: 60-80
- Sales conversion after advice: 9%

LOOKING AHEAD

Atomic is currently testing GUURU's ChatGPT-based CoPilot. "We're exploring how to integrate automation into our operations.



When purchasing skis, customers expect individualized advice that addresses their personal needs. Skiing encompasses numerous nuances and evokes strong emotions—something AI cannot fully comprehend. This is why our customers appreciate chatting with the community. The exceptionally positive reviews confirm that we are on the right path with GUURU."

Stefan Lettner, Global Head of eCommerce
ATOMIC



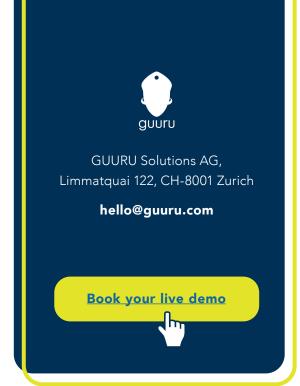
For us it's very clear that when it comes to technical or personal advice, human expertise remains essential.

However, we do see value in using AI to handle traditional customer service inquiries."

Looking ahead, Atomic aims to enhance its tech infrastructure with a stronger focus on brand identity. To achieve this, they plan to further amplify the involvement of their Guuru community, reinforcing their differentiation from competitors.

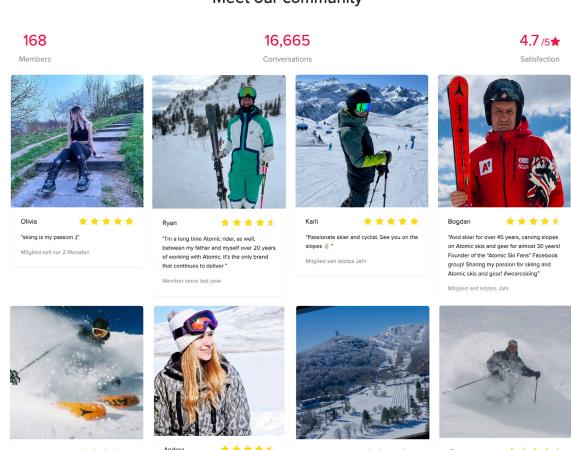
FUN FACT:

At the annual Amer Sports Group Consumer Service Summit 2024, GUURU's Live Community Advice Chat was recognized as an exemplary approach.



Atomic

Meet our community



"I love ski a lot and I want to share my

experience with you '

Mitglied seit vor 3 Monaten

"I've been skiing all around the world for the

past 40 years, I ski on and off piste and like

to do some ski touring and enjoy occasional

cross country. I also am a BASI L2 instructor

and keep fit by running, cycling and playing

field hockey."

"Passionate skier and outdoor sports

enthusiast with years of experience on the

slopes. Whether you're new to the sport or

looking to upgrade your gear, I'm here to

offer advice and help you find the perfect

equipment for your needs! i ski & Atomic!

"What makes me a good Atomic Guuru is my

experts—through the vast range of Atomic's

explaining the difference between ski models, recommending the best gea... more

ability to guide skiers-both beginners and

products and technology. Whether it's