Leoni and Continental awarded CNA innovation prize

Joint development of ready-for-production high voltage power distributor

Nuremberg, 12 July 2012 – The Center for Transportation & Logistics Neuer Adler e.V. (CNA) this year awarded its “Intelligence for Transportation and Logistics” innovation prize for the tenth time. The companies awarded on this occasion were Leoni and Continental, which jointly developed a high voltage power distributor for vehicles with electric drive.

Dr Rainer Müller, CNA’s chairman, emphasised while presenting the prize the “positive example set by the joint development work of these two automotive suppliers in the region.” As a key component of an electric drive system, this innovative, high voltage power distributor raises the efficiency and safety of hybrid and electric vehicles – and thus the market opportunity for forward-looking, environmentally friendly mobility solutions.

Together with a number of media representatives, about 60 participants from government, the business and scientific communities were guests at the award presentation held at the Chamber of Industry and Commerce in Nuremberg for the central Franconia region. In the Ludwig-Feuerbach Hall, Dr Michael Fraas, economics spokesman of the city of Nuremberg and director of the Economy and Infrastructure Forum of the metropolitan Nuremberg region, in his tribute praised the exemplary cooperation between the two companies and the innovative outcome of their joint work.

Electromobility: concentrated expertise in Nuremberg

The metropolitan Nuremberg region is today a key centre for electromobility. The two awarded companies are making a major contribution in this respect. Continental’s Hybrid Electric Vehicle (HEV) business unit is based in Nuremberg, as is Leoni AG. Continental is recognised as being among the world’s leading suppliers in the e-mobility market and, in Nuremberg, produces both lithium-ion batteries and power electronics for hybrid and electric vehicles. Leoni is one of the world’s largest manufacturers of automotive cables and wiring systems and, for cars with alternative drive systems, provides both special cable systems and electromechanical components as well as charging cables for the infrastructure.

Helmut Fennel, Head of Development at the Hybrid Electric Vehicle unit, and Rainer Pühl, Continental’s facility and plant manager in Nuremberg, accepted the prize on Continental’s behalf. Jürgen Linhard, Managing Director of Leoni Bordnetz-Systeme GmbH, and Dr Michael Frommberger, Head of Business Unit Electromobility, accepted the award for Leoni. Helmut Fennel emphasised the pre-competitive collaboration as a key success factor. “Based on this collaboration we were able to take better account of the system aspects than in normal projects in which the mutual customer, the carmaker, stipulates the requirements.” Dr Michael Frommberger also underscored this point: “In the case of electrical wiring system products the innovations are in the detail. And such detail development is best taken forward when, as in this case, a manufacturer of high voltage components and a wiring systems specialist collaborate at the pre-competitive stage.

Benefit & innovation

The high voltage power distributor developed by Leoni and Continental meet the special requirements that modern electric and hybrid vehicles impose on these important components. The distributor box can, moreover, be set up flexibly and application-specifically, thereby enabling development times to be shortened and system costs to be reduced. The success and therefore the benefit of this cooperation lie primarily in the fact that the component and the wiring systems manufacturer can offer their customers, the carmakers, a better product. Continental is already testing the distributor in a prototype vehicle and it can now be applied in mass production.

Hybrid and electric vehicles require a high voltage power distributor so that, in addition to the main units (battery, power electronics and electric motor), ancillaries such as the air-conditioning compressor, auxiliary heater and charger can also be connected to the wiring system. The distributor’s many novelties cover above all such areas as safety, weigh-saving and installation space optimisation.

*(1,234 printed characters incl empty spaces)*☞ *For technical details please refer to the attached fact sheet*☞ *Related illustration material can be downloaded from* [*www.media.leoni.com*](http://www.media.leoni.com) *next to this release*

About the Leoni Group

Leoni is a global supplier of wires, optical fibers, cables and cable systems as well as related services for the automotive sector and further industries. Leoni develops and produces technically sophisticated products from single-core automotive cables through to complete wiring systems. Leoni’s product range also comprises wires and strands, standardised cables, special cables and cable system assemblies for various industrial markets. The group of companies, which is listed on the German MDAX, employs more than 63,000 people in 31 countries and generated consolidated sales of EUR 3.7 billion in 2011.

About the CNA

Under its objective of “Intelligence for Transportation and Logistics”, the CNA skills initiative has since 1996 been helping to shape the future in transport and logistics. The sector comprises about 750 companies in the metropolitan Nuremberg region alone; with 75,000 employees these companies generate worldwide annual sales of approx. EUR 20 billion. The CNA’s aim is to strengthen and develop the transport and logistics sector’s competitive position. Le CNA’s innovation prize, which is awarded annually, commends companies for outstanding projects, products or services that are making a special contribution to sustained economic growth, to safeguarding jobs as well as to maintaining the ability of the Bavarian economy to compete. The aim is also to communicate beyond local boundaries the innovation potential of the Bavarian business location as well as the metropolitan Nuremberg region. The innovation prize was awarded for the tenth time already in 2012.

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Fact Sheet

The high voltage power distributor

The component that won the innovation prize integrates ancillaries such as air-conditioning compressors, auxiliary heaters and chargers into the electrical wiring system of hybrid and electric vehicles. The wiring system consists of numerous partial cable harnesses with a total cable length of about three kilometres, which connects all the electric and electronic components of a vehicle – from the indicator to the audio system – and thereby ensures overall system functionality.

The prize winners’ range of electromobility products

Continental is recognised as being among the world’s leading suppliers in the e-mobility market and already has all the key components in production: batteries, power electronics and electric motors. In Nuremberg the Company produces both lithium-ion batteries for hybrid vehicles and power electronics for hybrid as well as electric vehicles. LEONI provides both special cable systems and electromechanical components for cars with alternative drive as well as electric charging cables and charging station wiring.

The innovative aspects in detail

1. Safety: It is ensured, for example, that the box can only be opened when the high voltage is switched off – without additional connectors or switch components.
2. Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC): Along with the all-metal casing, additional internal shielding prevents the high voltage system’s interference voltage from penetrating into the 12 volt wiring system.
3. Weight saving: One of the factors contributing to this is smaller cable cross sections, which were calculated with using thermal simulators.
4. Installation space optimisation: This was achieved with compact construction and perfect adaption to the requirements of the surroundings (e.g. short input leads).
5. Switch-off functions: Controlled by software, the power distributor can switch the charging cable off to avoid electromagnetic interference while on the move and to ensure when standing still that touching the charging contacts is harmless.
6. Additional voltages: The high voltage distributor box can, alongside the 12 volt wiring system, also generate other voltages (e.g. 48 volts for special LED lighting systems).
7. Reliable high voltage indicator: The box also ensures direct, hardware-based and redundant measurement of the adjacent voltage, which is displayed instantaneously.

About the prize winners

Leoni operates worldwide, providing wires, optical fibers, cables and cable systems as well as related services for the automotive sector and other industries. Leoni develops and makes technically sophisticated products ranging from the single-core automotive cable through to the complete wiring system. In addition, the line-up comprises wire products, standardised cables, special cables and assembled systems for a variety of industrial markets. The group of companies market-listed in the German MDAX index employs more than 63,000 people in 31 countries and generated consolidated sales of EUR 3.7 billion in 2011.

With sales of EUR 30.5 billion in 2011, Continental is among the world’s leading automotive component suppliers. As a provider brake systems, systems and components for drives and chassis, instrumentation, infotainment solutions, vehicle electronics, tyres and technical elastomer products, Continental contributes to greater vehicle safety and global climate protection. Continental is, furthermore, an expert partner in terms of networked, automotive communication. Continental currently employs about 167,000 people in 46 countries. For more than ten years already, Continental has been investing in the development and optimisation of climate-friendly systems and components for alternative drives. In currently 100 ongoing projects for 20 manufacturers worldwide, about 1,600 specialists are working on further development of existing concepts as well as on developing new products for hybrid and electric vehicles. In order to devise safe, efficient, networked and comfortable mobility, Continental links the expertise within its group in the areas of integration, energy optimisation, drive management, vehicle safety, information management and tyres. Hybrid and electric vehicle components from all business units can be adapted to the particular vehicle requirements around the world and can therefore be used for virtually all vehicle categories and types of drive.