

Minister of Transport visits KIRCHHOFF Automotive stand on IAA Commercial Vehicles

During their opening tour of the IAA Commercial Vehicles the Federal Minister for Transport and Digital Infrastructure, Andreas Scheuer, and the Deputy Prime Minister of Lower Saxony, Dr. Bernd Althusmann, together with VDA President Bernhard Mattes visited the stand of KIRCHHOFF Automotive. Since solutions for electro-mobility, one of the top topics of this year's fair, are also the focus of KIRCHHOFF Automotive's trade fair appearance.

"The complete commercial vehicle industry is on the upswing. All manufacturers strike out in a new direction to shape the transport of the future", said VDA president Bernhard Mattes. The highlight on the KIRCHHOFF Automotive stand is a battery housing with lightweight design (a combination of steel and aluminum) for electric vehicles. The main features and benefits of this battery housing are a cost effective design, corrosion and underbody protection, an integrated cooling system and crash-optimized behavior. The innovative and economic lightweight concept ensures the safe housing of high voltage battery modules and can be applied in various vehicle models.

The business department FAUN, belonging to the KIRCHHOFF Group alongside KIRCHHOFF Automotive, has impressively refined this approach. FAUN is one of the leading manufacturers of waste collection vehicles, lifter systems and sweepers in Europe and is targeting "zero emission in waste disposal". Out of the cross-divisional know-how, a self-developed electric drive has emerged that combines hydrogen fuel cell and battery technology for an increase in range. With the hydrogen fuel cell vehicle BLUEPOWER FAUN offers modular configurable, alternative drive systems for more environmentally friendly disposal logistics. "The commercial vehicle industry plays an important role to continuously reduce emissions ", also said Bernhard Mattes.

Furthermore, KIRCHHOFF Automotive presents a weight-optimized front axle carrier in an aluminum shell design, which represents an economic lightweight solution for the series production of assembly components. Reduced weight, as well as the application of production processes that are suitable for large-scale production like deep drawing and inert-gas welding, are advantages of this product.

On the example of a bumper, KIRCHHOFF Automotive shows an innovative laser welding process. With this process, weld seam embrittlement can be avoided, development of spatters can be reduced as well as material and weight can be saved.

On the VW Crafter, KIRCHHOFF Automotive proves its competence in modular production. With three different lengths, three different heights and four basic models, diversity plays a big role with respect to this vehicle and its almost identical sister model MAN TGE. Main parts of the floor assembly—67 parts in total—of the Crafter, are produced in the KIRCHHOFF Automotive plant in Gniezno, Poland. An innovative device concept offers the flexibility for all variants of the assembly.

With more than 2,100 exhibitors from about 50 countries and with more than 280,000 square meters of exhibition space, the IAA Commercial Vehicles sets a new record this year. Up to September 27th the internationally acting automotive supplier KIRCHHOFF Automotive displays innovative light weight solutions for car body and chassis on the IAA Commercial Vehicles and expects high-ranking representatives of commercial vehicle manufacturers on its stand **C36 in hall 13**.



f.l.t.r.: Deputy Prime Minister of Lower Saxony Dr. Bernd Althusmann, Federal Transport Minister Andreas Scheuer and VDA President Bernhard Mattes are welcomed by the Managing Partners of the KIRCHHOFF Group J. Wolfgang Kirchhoff and Arndt G. Kirchhoff during the opening tour of IAA Commercial Vehicles.



Solutions for alternative drives are the focus of IAA Commercial Vehicles in Hanover. On the KIRCHHOFF Automotive stand J. Wolfgang Kirchhoff, Managing Partner of the KIRCHHOFF Group, showed Federal Transport Minister Andreas Scheuer innovative and economic light weight concepts for the safe housing of high voltage battery modules.

KIRCHHOFF Automotive – WE.MOVE.FUTURE.

As a business unit of the KIRCHHOFF Group, KIRCHHOFF Automotive is one of the big medium-sized automotive suppliers. The family owned company, now in the fourth generation, is a leading development partner for complex metal and hybrid structures for car body and chassis for the international automotive industry.

With 30 production plants in 11 countries, KIRCHHOFF Automotive is the biggest division of the KIRCHHOFF Group. Our global production network with the core technologies of forming, joining, and surface treatment guarantees worldwide uniform manufacturing and production standards.

The KIRCHHOFF Group, consisting of the divisions KIRCHHOFF Automotive, KIRCHHOFF Ecotec, KIRCHHOFF Mobility and WITTE Tools has more than 12,300 people worldwide and has generated a turnover of more than 2.1 billion euros in 2017.

More information can be found at www.kirchhoff-automotive.com.

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