

Press release

The endowed professorship with Paderborn University enters the third funding phase

Cooperation with the Founders' Association

Paderborn, 20.12.2016: For the winter semester 2016/17, BENTELER Automotive has extended the funding of the endowed professorship "Leichtbau im Automobil" (lightweight construction in automobiles) with Paderborn University for the second time. Prof. Dr. Thomas Tröster's department is focused on finding lightweight construction solutions for the automotive industry. Thanks to the close cooperation with BENTELER Automotive it is possible to apply research findings quickly to series production.

The endowed professorship was established in 2007/2008 and is now entering the third phase. BENTELER works closely with the Founders' Association, the joint initiative of companies and foundations for the promotion, consultation and networking in the areas of education, science and innovation.

As the representative of BENTELER in the Landeskuratorium Nordrhein-Westfalen (curatorship for North Rhine-Westphalia) of the Founder's Association, Dr. Christian Terlinde, a member of the executive board of BENTELER Automotive, commends the successful collaboration between the three parties: "This cooperation unites the corporate perspective, research and the Founders' Association. All three parties gain long-term benefits from this partnership. At the same time, we are strengthening the Paderborn research location, securing the high standard of training and can enthuse young people for our company." As one of the major employers of the region, BENTELER has always placed great importance on the promotion and training of young people. BENTELER currently employs more than 500 apprentices and students on combined study and work schemes in East Westphalia Lippe (OWL) and 750 throughout Germany. BENTELER works closely together with schools, vocational colleges and Paderborn University in order to successfully and flexibly meet the challenges of a fast changing world.

The cooperation with Paderborn University is also of key importance for the research and development work of BENTELER Automotive: "Prof. Dr. Thomas Tröster's department researches fundamental issues concerning metal and plastic hybrid systems," Ralf Göttel, Chairman of the executive board of BENTELER Automotive, explains. "In view of the increasing importance of lowering fuel consumption and CO₂, lightweight construction and multi-material solutions play a central role in automobile manufacture. We also want to further consolidate our leading position in this field and offer optimum solutions to our customers. At the same time, cooperation with Paderborn University is an important success factor in a highly competitive market."

Press contact:

BENTELER International AG

Birgit Held

Vice President Corporate Communications/Marketing

Salzburg, Austria

Phone: +43 662 2283-101040 / Cell: +43 664 88361890

E-mail: public.relations@benteler.com

About the Department of Lightweight Construction in Automobiles (LiA) - Engineering Faculty – Paderborn University

Due to increasing demands regarding climate protection and non-renewable resources, the reduction of the mass of automobiles is an important factor in reducing fuel consumption. For this reason the research objective of this department is to develop innovative lightweight construction solutions for the automobile industry and related industries. Materials, processes and applications are at the focus of the research activities.

About the Founders' Association

The Founders' Association is the joint initiative of companies and foundations, which is the only initiative that provides comprehensive promotion, consultation and networking in the areas of education, science and innovation.

About BENTELER

With about 30,000 employees and 161 locations in 40 countries, the BENTELER-Group stands for a high degree of excellent material, production and technology in the areas of Automotive, Steel/Tube and Distribution. The three Business Divisions BENTELER Automotive, BENTELER Steel/Tube, and BENTELER Distribution are organized under the strategic management holding company BENTELER International AG. Continuing progress by means of new materials, technologies, and products as well as long-term, profitable growth are the supporting pillars of the 140-year success story of the BENTELER-Group, which is in its fourth generation of family ownership.

About BENTELER Automotive

BENTELER Automotive provides development, production and services worldwide – while consistently focussing on quality, safety and efficiency. Our products include components and modules for chassis, body, engine and exhaust systems. Our customers include almost all major vehicle manufacturers. In close collaboration with them we develop and implement ideas and solutions with our complete vehicle competence. We have established a global production network which we are continuously expanding. Currently we have 74 plants in 24 countries and 21,326 employees.

Further information at www.benteler.com



Underline: (from left): Prof. Dr. Rüdiger Kabst, Vice President Technology Transfer And Marketing, Prof. Dr. Thomas Tröster, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering (Automotive Lightweight Design), both University Paderborn, Ralf Göttel, CEO of BENTELER Automotive, and Dr. Christian Terlinde, CFO of BENTELER Automotive, Prof. Dr. Andreas Schlüter, General Secretary of Founders Association, after signing.