

Press release

BENTELER presents its innovative steel tube lightweight solutions at BILSTER BERG

- **BENTELER makes components for its customers more lightweight – up to 40 percent**
- **Tubes with the new varID® technology reduce the weight of cars, thereby reducing fuel consumption**
- **BENTELER is an internationally sought-after development partner for car manufacturers thanks to its many years of expertise in the area of materials**

Paderborn/Salzburg, 27.09.2018 – Lighter vehicles, reduced fuel consumption and thus less environmental pollution – these are the advantages of BENTELER's innovative steel tube lightweight solutions. The Steel/Tube Division presented these yesterday to its customers from the automotive industry at its customer day at the BILSTER BERG Drive Resort near Paderborn.

Christian Wiethuechter, Chief Sales and Operating Officer at BENTELER Steel/Tube, explains: "We make our customers' components lighter, for instance, by replacing solid material springs in the chassis with spring tubes. These hollow springs reduce the component weight by up to 40 percent." This reduction in weight lowers the fuel consumption of cars with conventional drives. And BENTELER's new lightweight construction solutions can considerably increase the range of electric cars.

varID® technology: lighter vehicles, lower consumption

It is possible to make vehicles even lighter: One of the presented innovations is the varID® technology by BENTELER. This can reduce the weight by an additional 15 percent as explained by Stefan Kuenneke, Sales Director at BENTELER Steel/Tube: "VarID® tubes are tubes with a variable internal diameter – therefore the abbreviation varID®. Their wall thickness is adapted to the various areas of the component: The material is thicker where it is subject to increased stress and thinner where there is less stress. To make this possible, BENTELER developed its own special process for manufacturing the tubes.

BENTELER is a reliable development partner

Dr. Thorsten Andres, Vice President of Development at BENTELER Steel/Tube, sums it up: "We have been working with steel for more than 140 years. Thanks to many years of expertise in materials, we

are at the forefront of the trends in the automotive industry. High strength steels like those we manufacture allow considerable material savings due to their stability."

Together with the other materials developed in the Automotive Division, high strength steels make an important contribution to lightweight construction in cars. Oliver Lang, Chief Technology Officer of the Automotive Division adds: "The BENTELER Group stands out due to its many years of experience in the application of various materials. Our customers benefit from our multi-material expertise with which we assist them to find optimal solutions for lightweight construction. We have the right material mix for every requirement."

Particular highlights for customers

As well as numerous presentations about lightweight construction in cars, BENTELER also focused on personal interaction with their customers. In addition, participants had the chance of proving themselves as drivers on the 4.2 km track at BILSTER BERG.

***Photo Bilster Berg:** Presenting innovative solutions for lightweight construction in cars (from left to right): Stefan Kuenneke, Sales Director at BENTELER Steel/Tube, Dr. Thorsten Andres, Vice President Development at BENTELER Steel/Tube, Dr. Thomas Saeuberlich, Product Development Automotive at BENTELER Steel/Tube, and Dr. Andreas Frehn, Head of Materials Technology at BENTELER Automotive.*

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About BENTELER

BENTELER is a leading global company that develops, produces and sells products, systems and services for the automotive, energy and engineering sectors. We are a family-owned firm now in the fourth generation. Our 30,000 employees at 144 locations in 39 countries are passionate about excellence in manufacturing and distribution - in close proximity and collaboration with our customers. Sales in 2017 amounted to 7,856 Million Euros.

The three Business Divisions BENTELER Automotive, BENTELER Steel/Tube and BENTELER Distribution are organized under the strategic management holding company BENTELER International AG in Salzburg, Austria. With our technological expertise and strong focus on successful implementation, we develop solutions that make the difference – for customers, employees and society. And we make them happen.

BENTELER. The family of driven professionals. Since 1876.

About BENTELER Steel/Tube

BENTELER Steel/Tube develops and produces steel and seamless and welded quality steel tubes. As one of the leading manufacturers, we offer our customers solutions worldwide along the entire value chain, ranging from material development to tube application. We create customized tube products for the Automotive, Energy and Industry markets.