

Press release

BPW supplies electric drive for new lorry project from PEM at RWTH Aachen, Isuzu Motors Germany and StreetScooter

- Aachen-based research project aims to make electric lorries economically viable
- BPW supplies electric drive axle and power electronics
- Press event held on November 30 in the Production Technology cluster on the RWTH Aachen campus

Wiehl/Aachen, 04.12.2018 --- Electric vans are being spotted in more and more inner cities – most of them in the bright distinctive colours of the postal service, delivering letters, parcels and packages. Yet truly heavy loads are soon to be transported electrically, too: BPW is supplying the drive axle technology for a research project at RWTH Aachen aimed at helping the electric lorry achieve their breakthrough. An first vehicle based on the Isuzu N series has now been presented in Aachen. It can carry a gross vehicle weight of 7.5 tons – but where you'd otherwise hear the sound of diesel chugging, there's nothing but silence.

In a game of Top Trumps for cars, you wouldn't want commercial vehicles in your hand: in this sector, speed, number of cylinders and cubic capacity are trumped by other characteristics. The critical factors for commercial vehicles are usable load and costs – calculated over the vehicle's entire lifespan. It is these specific parameters which are being addressed by a research project in Aachen: in collaboration with BPW Bergische Achsen and partners Isuzu Motors Germany, StreetScooter and the RWTH Aachen machine tool lab, the 'Chair of Production Engineering of E-Mobility Components' (PEM) at RWTH Aachen is now presenting an electric lorry with a gross vehicle weight of 7.5 tons. The project is funded by Germany's Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety through the 'Renewable Mobility' programme. A modular design is aimed at speeding up development and production and reducing life cycle costs.

From the outside, there's nothing to distinguish the vehicle from the Isuzu N production model. What's different? The 140 kW (or 190 hp) diesel engine is missing. Instead, the drive system is hidden in the rear axle. It is supplied by BPW from Wiehl, North Rhine-Westphalia, a leading technology company in the commercial vehicle industry. With 6,500 newton metres of torque, the compact electric drive axle 'eTransport' sets a gross vehicle weight of 7.5 tons in motion. The compact design of the electric drive axle allows completely new vehicle concepts to be realized, as the project is intended to demonstrate.

The BPW drive system is currently undergoing pre-production tests and should first appear in commercially available vehicles in early 2019. The company Paul Nutzfahrzeuge is using it to convert special municipal vehicles from diesel engines to electric drives. This is worth the effort, since there is as yet no mass-produced chassis on the market robust enough for heavy transport

tasks and associated refitting and conversion. At the same time, BPW is already working on a drive axle with 22,000 newton metres of torque for vehicles with a gross weight of up to 26 tons.

The vehicle dubbed 'LiVe1' (an acronym for: 'life cycle cost reduction in electric distribution vehicles with individually adaptable powertrains') was unveiled at the 'prototype factory' on the RWTH Aachen campus.

'We are excited to be contributing to this future-forward project as a supplier,' says Hans Werner Kopplow, head of e-mobility development at BPW in Wiehl. 'The opportunity to work with leading companies on the emissions-free lorry of the future in Aachen's unique research and development environment is an extremely inspiring one. This kind of partnership is helping emissions-free electric inner-city transport in Europe make a breakthrough.'

About BPW Bergische Achsen Kommanditgesellschaft

BPW Bergische Achsen Kommanditgesellschaft is the parent company of the BPW Group. With over 1,600 employees, including around 120 trainees, the family-owned company has been developing and producing complete running gear systems for truck trailers and semi-trailers at its headquarters in Wiehl since 1898. BPW's technologies include axle systems, brake technology, suspension and bearings. BPW's trailer axles and running gear systems are in use in millions of vehicles around the world. An extensive range of services also gives vehicle manufacturers and vehicle operators the opportunity to increase the efficiency of their production and transport processes. www.bpw.de

About the BPW Group

The BPW Group, based in Wiehl, Germany, is a reliable international mobility and system partner for the transport industry and offers innovative one-stop solutions. Its portfolio ranges from axles, suspension systems and brake technologies (BPW), locking systems and trailer superstructure technology (Hestal), lighting systems (Ermax) and plastic technologies (HBN-Teknik) to user-friendly telematics applications for trucks and trailers (idem telematics). The BPW Group's technologies and services enable economical production processes for manufacturers and provide maximum transparency in loading and transport processes for efficient fleet management by vehicle operators. The owner-operated BPW company group encompasses more than 70 subsidiaries worldwide and employs around 7,000 people. www.bpw.de

Contact:

Corporate Communications Department
Press and public relations
Nadine Simon
Tel +49 22 62 / 78-19 09
Fax +49 22 62 / 78-49 09
presse@bpw.de

BPW Bergische Achsen KG, Ohlerhammer, 51674 Wiehl, Germany | www.bpw.de