

Press release

BPW crowned 'Best Brand' for the twelfth time in a row

- **BPW once again wins the 'ETM Award' in the trailer axle category**
- **Readers' choice award attracts record participation: almost 13,000 votes cast**
- **Winners selected by those with close ties to day-to-day transport business**

Wiehl, 26.06.2018 --- Industry professionals have once again chosen BPW as the 'Best Brand' in the commercial vehicle sector. This is the twelfth time in a row that the company has won the 'ETM Award' in the trailer axle category. The competition was started in 1997 and was known as the 'Best Brands' and 'Best Commercial Vehicles' awards for many years. This year is the second time that it has been held under the name 'ETM Award'. The contest is an important benchmark for the industry and a reliable indicator of the acceptance and reputation of vehicles and brands. The awards are given out in the categories of 'Best Truck', 'Best Van', 'Best Bus' and 'Best Brand'. The best brands compete against each other in 27 categories. BPW running gear systems have delivered consistently impressive performance here and have come out on top of the competition every year since 2007.

The winners of the 'ETM Award' are selected by people with close ties to the day-to-day transport business: commercial vehicle professionals and readers of the trade magazines *lastauto omnibus*, *trans aktuell* and *FERNFAHRER*, and the website *eurotransport.de*. This year, the poll conducted by the publisher ETM Verlag received a bigger response than ever before – with 12,685 votes from readers that were confirmed to be authentic by a notary. The organisers use the latest evaluation methods to ensure that they maintain the highest quality of data for the readers' choice.

The award ceremony was held at the New Palace in Stuttgart on 21 June. Ralf Merkelbach, Head of Key Account Management Major Fleets Europe at BPW, and Katrin Köster, Head of Corporate Communications, accepted the award on behalf of the BPW Group. According to Ralf Merkelbach: 'The people in the best position to assess the reliability and quality of our solutions are those who work with them on a daily basis. The fact that we have enjoyed continued success at the ETM Awards for so long encourages us to head into the future with our usual innovative spirit together with our international subsidiaries.' Katrin Köster added: 'BPW is always moving forwards. This is vital if we want to continue to perfect our solutions or to develop new ones that give our customers real efficiency gains in their day-to-day transport work. This accolade for our core product will spur us on to continue demonstrating our innovative strengths in just the same way as we do with digital solutions or the electrification of commercial vehicles.'

With pioneering technical innovations, system solutions, production methods, quality standards and services, the BPW Group ranks among the leading drivers of innovation in goods transport and logistics. Alongside BPW – the running gear technology brand – the Group also includes Ermax (cable and lighting systems), HBN-Teknik (plastic components), Hestal (locking and body technology) and idem telematics (telematics solutions for trucks and trailers). The varied range of

technologies and services offered by the BPW Group brings the industry efficiency, transparency and coordinated one-stop solutions that offer ideal support for logistics and production processes.



Image reference: Ralf Merkelbach, Head of Key Account Management Major Fleets Europe, at the 'Best Brand 2018' awards ceremony at the New Palace in Stuttgart on 21 June. (Source: Karl-Heinz Augustin)

About BPW Bergische Achsen Kommanditgesellschaft

BPW Bergische Achsen Kommanditgesellschaft is the parent company of the BPW Group. With over 1,600 staff, including around 120 apprentices, 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, braking 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 provides vehicle manufacturers and vehicle operators with 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 solutions from a single source. Its portfolio extends from axles, suspension systems and braking technologies (BPW), locking systems and trailer body technology (Hestal), lighting systems (Ermax) and plastics 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-managed BPW Group encompasses more than 70 companies worldwide and employs around 7,000 people. www.bpw.de

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