

Press release

BPW uses BMW i battery technology for electric drive for lorries

- BPW uses BMW i battery technology for particularly powerful electric drive for commercial vehicles
- BPW drive axle for vehicles with a gross weight of up to 7.5 tonnes with 6,580-nanometre torque at the rear axle and battery power of 84 kilowatt-hours
- Diesel out, BPW drive axle in – standard conversion from the beginning of 2019
- BPW presents drive concept for 26-tonne commercial vehicles at the IAA

Munich/Wiehl, 20 September 2018 – BPW Bergische Achsen KG is announcing its partnership with BMW i for an electric drive system for commercial vehicles at the IAA. BPW will use battery technology from BMW i for its particularly powerful drive axle, which is designed for heavy vans and lorries with a gross weight of up to 7.5 tonnes. The drive will go into small series production in early 2019 for converting MB Varios used in municipal applications, for example. A drive concept for lorries with a gross weight of 26 tonnes is under development.

E-mobility will be one of the top topics at the IAA Commercial Vehicles in Hanover (20–27 September) – the major challenge here is, above all else, the high usable loads the vehicles must possess.

The BPW Group in Wiehl (North Rhine-Westphalia) is one of the world's leading suppliers to the commercial vehicle industry; the company develops, produces and sells everything that moves, secures, illuminates and digitally connects transport vehicles. This is why, in the field of e-mobility, BPW Bergische Achsen KG has developed an electric axle that can power vehicles with a gross weight of up to 7.5 tonnes with a powerful 6,580 nanometres of torque at the rear axle, and can even be used to retrofit traditional vehicles. In this process, BPW couples two of the high-voltage lithium-ion systems used in the BMW i3 to produce a total capacity of 84 kilowatt-hours per vehicle. The battery management system including wiring, sensors as well as the heating and cooling system are supplied by BMW. Depending on the desired range, additional battery systems can be installed; BPW also offers various charging systems depending on the application and customer requirements.

The BPW drive axle with BMW i battery technology will go into series production for the first time in early 2019, with Paul Nutzfahrzeuge, European market leader for special vehicles, using it as the basis for its conversion of heavy vans and light lorries from diesel to electric drives. Because heavy components such as the diesel engine, transmission, cardan shaft and exhaust-cleaning system can be completely removed, the vehicle does not become any heavier. This will particularly allow municipalities to continue using the expensive special vehicles used by their utility companies, police departments and fire brigades emission-free and cost-effectively for many years to come. But logistics companies can also benefit from electric vehicles' constant usable load.

According to Markus Schell, personally liable managing partner of BPW, 'We are delighted that BMW i has contributed a tried-and-tested and reliable battery system to our high-performance axle-integrated drive concept. The drive axle not only makes it possible to integrate it into existing

platforms, but also offers a weight-neutral replacement for conventional drives and thus maintains the maximum usable load.'

The BPW Group will be presenting the eTransport electric drive axle to the public at the IAA from 20 to 27 September (Hall 26, C31). Trade visitors can register for a test drive on the exhibition grounds: iaa@bpw.de



Picture caption: BPW drive axle for vehicles with a gross weight of up to 7.5 tonnes with 6,580-nanometre torque at the rear axle and battery power of 84 kilowatt-hours (Source: BPW Bergische Achsen KG)

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 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, 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 ranges 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-operated BPW Group encompasses more than 70 subsidiaries worldwide and employs around 7,000 people. www.wethinktransport.com

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