

June 30, 2022

Sensor integration for autonomous driving: Webasto and Bosch present prototype At EXPO Day of the "Startup Autobahn" innovation platform in Stuttgart, Webasto and Bosch show a jointly developed autonomous vehicle sensor integration prototype for the first time.

Stockdorf. June 30, 2022. Innovation, collaboration and inspiration combined in one car:

Webasto has integrated a total of 25 sensors from Bosch as well as numerous additional features into the roof of a joint prototype. The vehicle will be presented to the public for the first time at EXPO2022 of the "Startup Autobahn" innovation platform on July 7 in Stuttgart. Four radar, four lidar sensors and 16 cameras of different type from Bosch are integrated in Webasto's Roof Sensor Module (RSM). Sensors reliably detect the environment and will enable autonomous driving at Level 4. Webasto integrates features for cleaning, de-icing and fog removal as well as sensor cooling to ensure functionality in all weather conditions with automotive-grade industrialization. A vehicle motion and position sensor (VMPS) consisting of a global navigation satellite system (GPS/GNSS) and an inertial measurement unit, is further accommodated in the Roof Sensor Module.

"In our prototype, we demonstrate our competence as a system integrator. Compared to current robotaxi prototypes on the market, we are able to significantly reduce the height, weight, and package this in a stylish roof module, particularly while also integrating a transparent sunroof bringing comfort, air and light into the vehicle for passengers," explains Freddy Geeraerds, Member of the Management Board of Webasto SE and responsible for the global roof business.

Teaming up with "Wheel.me"

In addition to the cooperation with Bosch, Webasto is also showing the result of a promising collaboration with a startup at the EXPO. At "Wheel.me", everything revolves around autonomous wheels. Webasto learned of the Norwegian company in 2019 during a "Startup Autobahn" event. In a pilot phase, Webasto provided the robotics company with a test site for their first prototypes, among other things. The technology and the idea behind the product convinced Webasto to launch a use case at its Utting, Germany plant. At the site the intelligent, electric wheels independently transport heavy glass and frame racks from the warehouse to the production line. "We see this as a great example of how technology from innovative tech-companies can help us be more flexible and efficient", said Carlos Inacio, Head of Automation Supply Chain at Webasto. After a successful installation in Utting (Germany), the plan is to extend the roll-out of use-cases across different locations.

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About Startup Autobahn

Webasto has been a partner of "Startup Autobahn" since fall 2017. STARTUP AUTOBAHN powered by Plug and Play is an open innovation platform that provides an interface between innovative tech companies and industry-leading corporations. The basis of the program is the partnership that develops between startups and the corporate business units. The two entities hold an equal footing from the get-go: together they evaluate the potential for a joint venture, move forward to pilot the technology, and work to achieve the ultimate goal – a successful production-ready implementation. Designed with the intention to exceed startup acceleration, STARTUP AUTOBAHN powered by Plug and Play moderates a community for collaboration with a focus on implementable results. Over the years, the platform has successfully cultivated over 380 projects with more than 289 startups since its founding in 2016. This last year, they have supported the creation of over 30 pilot projects with 10 business partners in their Programs 11 and 12.

About Webasto:

The Webasto Group is a global innovative systems partner to the mobility sector and is among the top 100 suppliers to the automotive industry worldwide. The company's product portfolio comprises in-house developed roof systems, heating and cooling systems for various types of vehicle, batteries and charging solutions for hybrid and electric vehicles, as well as complementary services relating to thermo management and electromobility. Webasto's customers include manufacturers of passenger cars, commercial vehicles and boats as well as dealers and end customers. In 2021, the company generated sales of 3.7 billion euros and employed some 15,700 people at more than 50 locations. The headquarters of the company founded in 1901 is located in Stockdorf near Munich, Germany. For more information, go to www.webasto-group.com

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