

PRESS RELEASE ABOUT THE RESULTS OF SUPERLIGHT-CAR

To : Potentially interested newspaper/magazine
From : SuperLIGHT-CAR project
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Subject : Press release about the results of the SuperLIGHT-Car project - **Sustainable Production Technologies of Emission Reduced Lightweight Car Body Concepts**

THE SUPERLIGHT-CAR PROJECT SAVES 35% WEIGHT IN A CAR BODY

The consortium of the European research project SuperLIGHT-Car demonstrates modern lightweight solutions for the distribution of dissimilar materials in an innovative multi-material car body. As the project comes to conclusion, it can display an impressive car-body weight reduction of 35% in a compact car that can be produced at 1000 units per day.

The European automotive industry is world leading in technologies for energy efficiency and CO₂ reduction in vehicles; important factors for an industry that seeks to radically reduce its environmental footprint. One key to reinforce these strengths is to decrease the vehicle weight, and thereby the fuel consumption. The concept of lightweight vehicles is nothing new; sports cars have been produced with lightweight materials for decades. Yet steel remains the main material of mass-produced cars, due to the lack of technologies for bringing lightweight vehicle production up to scale.

The SuperLIGHT-Car project has successfully tackled the challenge of a feasible car-body concept suitable for high volume production, with an achieved weight reduction of 35%. A multi-material approach was used where each specific body part is made from an efficient application of materials to fulfil the requirements while minimising the weight. The car-body is composed from hot-formed steels, aluminium, magnesium and fibre reinforced plastics. Appropriate design and manufacturing technologies were developed to allow for the production of high volume series. The body-in-white concept developed by SuperLIGHT-Car has exceeded the initial target by 5% and offers a weight reduction of 100 kg compared to the reference car, a Volkswagen Golf, showing an equivalent performance. The full body-in-white prototype was recently presented at the international conference "Innovative Developments for Lightweight Vehicle Structures" in Wolfsburg in May 2009, where it was enthusiastically received by the automotive industry.

The SuperLIGHT-Car concept also demonstrates the economic challenges in lightweight design. Originally targeted at € 5-10 per kg of weight saved, the final additional cost landed at € 8 per kg of weight saved.

Future research based on the findings of SuperLIGHT-Car is expected to overcome this economic challenge, while advancing lightweight technologies even further. Clearly, the SuperLIGHT-Car consortium has taken significant steps towards the production of sustainable mass-produced vehicles of tomorrow.

About SuperLIGHT-Car

SuperLIGHT-Car is a pre-competitive collaborative Research & Development project, running from 2005 to 2009, where 38 leading organisations have worked together to bring lightweight automotive technologies closer to high volume car production.

The SuperLIGHT-Car project, with a total budget of 20 million EUR, has been funded with 10 million Euro by the European Commission under the 6th Framework Programme. The project has been coordinated by the Volkswagen AG in cooperation with EUCAR.

EUCAR is the European Council for Automotive R&D from the major European passenger car and commercial vehicle manufacturers. EUCAR facilitates and coordinates pre-competitive research and development projects and participates in a wide range of collaborative European R&D programmes.

EUCAR members are the 12 major European automobile manufacturers:



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The SuperLIGHT-CAR consortium

