

Press Information

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TechDay at Opel – a Resounding Success

15 project partners informed interested Opel employees about The Lightweight Forging Initiative on 17 November 2016 at the company premises in Rüsselsheim.

Since 2013, a total of 35 steel manufacturers and forging companies as well as an engineering service provider have joined forces to work together on the megatrend of automotive lightweight design. This project is referred to as The Lightweight Forging Initiative. During Phase I, which took place in 2013 and 2014 with 24 participating companies, a medium-sized passenger car was analysed and the lightweight design potential of forged components identified. In total, a weight-saving potential of 42 kg was achieved in the powertrain and chassis. The Initiative entered Phase II in 2015 and 2016 with 28 companies and focussed this time on a light commercial vehicle up to 3.5 t. Phase II was able to build on the success of Phase I by identifying a feasible lightweight design potential of 99 kg in the powertrain and chassis.

The results of both phases not only enable a reduction in weight, energy consumption and CO₂ emissions, but also reveal competitive advantages with respect to rival production processes and materials.

To market the results and lay the foundation for an additional phase, TechDay took place on Thursday, 17 November 2016 at Opel in Rüsselsheim. 15 project partners of The Lightweight Forging Initiative presented themselves and their lightweight design ideas at their own booths in the foyer of the auditorium. The exhibition formed the framework program of the event and was complemented by hands-on discussions. Besides the interactive opportunities, 10-minute keynote speeches were held over the day on the topic of the four clusters – engine, transmission, powertrain and chassis.

With more than 70 visitors, the conference was very well-received. Alongside developers, designers and purchasers, there were even director-level attendees as well as interested parties from other departments, all of whom wanted to find out more about the topic. A lively exchange took place between the visitors and the experts, and follow-up discussions were arranged to discuss the issues in even greater detail.

“The in-house event provides a good platform for establishing direct contact to the decision-makers at Opel and to demonstrate to them the enormous potential of lightweight forging,” says Tobias Hain, Managing Director of the German Forging Association. “In addition, the event offers an ideal framework for suppliers to lead technical discussions and to answer individual questions in detail.”

TechDay at Opel was such a resounding success that the Initiative wishes to transfer the concept of the conference to other venues and customers of both participating industries.

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The Lightweight Forging Initiative

Since 2013, a total of 35 steel manufacturers, forging companies and an engineering service provider have joined forces under the auspices of the German Forging Association (Industrieverband Massivumformung e. V.) and the Steel Institute VDEh (Stahlinstitut VDEh) to form The Lightweight Forging Initiative. The goal of this Initiative, which is unparalleled worldwide, is to achieve weight-savings in cars and light commercial vehicles using innovative components made of steel. During Phase I, which took place in 2013 and 2014 with 24 participating companies, a medium-sized passenger car was analysed and the lightweight design potential of forged components identified. In total, a weight-saving potential of 42 kg was achieved in the powertrain and chassis. The Initiative entered Phase II in 2015 and 2016 with 28 companies and focussed this time on a light commercial vehicle up to 3.5 t. Phase II was able to build on the success of Phase I by identifying a feasible lightweight design potential of 99 kg in the powertrain and chassis. Phase III of the Initiative kicked off at international level in January 2017. Further information may be found at: www.massiverLEICHTBAU.de

Captions

Impressions from TechDay, a one-day event with 14 presentations and 15 exhibitors at Opel in Rüsselsheim.

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Industrieverband Massivumformung e. V. (German Forging Association)

Industrieverband Massivumformung e.V., with its 120 members, represents the interests of the industry with sales of 6.5 billion euros and almost 30,000 employees. A core task is organising collaboration across the member companies, most of which are medium-sized businesses, with the aim of working together to increase the competitiveness of the individual firms. Germany is the technology leader when it comes to forging and, after China, is the world's largest producer of forged parts.

Stahlinstitut VDEh (VDEh Steel Institute)

The association promotes cooperation among engineers on projects of a technical or scientific nature, or a combination of both, with the aim of further developing steel technology and the material steel. [Stahlinstitut VDEh](#) focuses on collaborative research and information exchange. In international collaborative work, system manufacturers and suppliers are also involved. Today, Stahlinstitut VDEh members include around 6,600 university graduates in technical, scientific and commercial subjects or those in leading positions in industry and trade. Besides this, 150 companies have joined the association from the areas of iron, steel and associated materials.

