



HANKOOK TIRE IN USA

Expansion of the global production network

From now on, Hankook Tire disposes of a production unit in the USA: The first factory was inaugurated in the state of Tennessee. Thus, the tyre manufacturer is continuously expanding its global production network. According to responsible people, the factory confirms the company's intention to provide both customers in the USA and in the world market with tailor-made technologies.

In October, the first Hankook factory in the USA was opened in an official ceremony. According to the company management, the future-oriented tyre factory in Clarksville stands for an important investment in the North-American market as part of the international expansion strategy of the group. At the moment, Hankook disposes of a production network in the big automotive regions in America (USA), Europe (Hungary), and Asia (Korea, China, and Indonesia). The new production area is supposed to be a basic part of the strategic vision on its way to an internationally leading tyre manufacturer. Bill Haslam, Governor of Tennessee, Marsha Blackburn, a Member of Congress, Seong-Jin Kim, Korean General Consul, as well as several representatives of national and regional politics took part in the opening ceremony of the production location in Clarksville.

The new US plant is worldwide the eighth production location of the Korean brand. The factory is meant to produce 5.5 million tyres per year in order to supply Hankook dealers and customers in the USA. According to the tyre manufacturer's information, the company will be in a better position to meet the requirements of the American market and to support existing and future business partners concerning original equipment. "The new factory

in Tennessee stands for Hankook's growing business in the USA and our intention to become one of the worldwide leading tyre manufacturers", says Seung-Hwa Suh, CEO at Hankook Tire. "Our investment in the USA is part of a continuous commitment to innovation, top technologies and outstanding customer service. We will be able to make use of our whole supply chain in the USA with our cutting-edge and sustainable factory starting with development, then production and finishing with distribution."

When building the factory of 140,000 square metres on an area of about 190 hectares, Hankook also focused on a sustainable construction. First of all, tyres for passenger cars, SUVs and light trucks will be produced from the broad line-up of the company in North America. According to company information, the factory is part of Hankook's continuous global investment

strategy and will be the company's biggest growth boost in the North-American market thanks to latest technologies and highly automated processes.

Furthermore, Hankook invested in Europe only recently like e.g. in a modern in-door testing area within the European factory in Hungary. Moreover, the Hankook Technotrac, a new winter testing area, was opened in Finland in spring and was linked to the European research and development centre based in Hanover. As a consequence, the holistic approach of the company concerning tyre development and production was further stressed. Several European premium automotive manufacturers, among others top brands like Audi, BMW, MAN, Mercedes-Benz passenger car and trucks, MINI, Porsche, Scania, and VW trust Hankook tyres with regard to original equipment.

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HANKOOK TIRE TENNESSEE PLANT GRAND OPENING



Hankook is expanding its global production presence with its plant in the USA.



PROFESSIONAL MOTORSPORT WORLD EXPO

Platform for motorsport experts

This year, the Professional MotorSport World Expo 2017 (PMW) again offered an information platform for motorsport engineers and technicians, racing car manufacturers, team managers and bosses, dealers of motorsport equipment and wholesalers. Here and there exhibitors presented several novelties.

At the beginning of November, visitors from about 50 countries got information on novelties in the industry and followed many expert presentations at Koelnmesse. The organisers of the trade fair chose a perfect trade fair period as the racing teams had the possibility of being informed about technologies rather early and of also probably implementing them in their programs for 2018.

New slick

This year, Nankang took part as an exhibitor too and thus, it was nearly the only representative of the tyre manufacturers. Nankang announced the nomination as official tyre partner of Fast & Furious Live at its trade fair booth. This means a global arena tour where film fans of Fast & Furious will be able to experience the vehicles

in action. Nankang will provide the tyres for the show. “We developed tyres especially for this format with a particular technology, because these tyres consist of a kind of ‘grey rubber compound’ not leaving behind any traces”, explained Shane Yang, Manager at Nankang, at the trade fair booth. Next year, Fast & Furious is stopping at three places in Germany. The tour is coming to the Olympiahalle in Munich from 16th to 18th February 2018; then to the Lanxess Arena in Cologne from 2nd to 4th March and to the Mercedes-Benz Arena in Berlin from 22nd to 24th June.

Moreover, Nankang presented a new slick, the SL-1, which will be produced for Europe, and the Sportnex AR-1. The latter will be offered from 13 to 20 inches, although some sizes will only be available as of 2018 like e.g. 175/50R 13, 235/45R 13, 235/45ZR

17, 245/40ZR 15, 245/40ZR17, 235/35ZR 19 and the 20-inch sizes.

Product highlights

The ZF Race Engineering GmbH, a subsidiary of ZF Friedrichshafen AG, presented itself at a newly designed trade fair booth. Based on the slogan “One pump – four variants” the company showed for example the new EPHS motorsport steering pump. The 100-C EPHS MPU is offered in four variants with different compensation tanks and as a consequence, it can be built into the vehicle in a flexible way. The pump has an adaptable production performance too varying from five to twelve l/min at variable revolutions from 2,500 to 6,000 rpm.

Furthermore, Bosch Motorsport develops high-performance products, which are adapted to the special conditions of racing sport. Several products celebrated its debut at the PMW. There were among others the display DDU 10, which disposes of new graphic elements and user interface menus, the ABS M5 Kit, the new collision avoiding system CAS-M3, and the electric coolant pump ECP 160. The new collision avoiding system CAS-M3 enables a real-time visualization during the race and is supposed to warn of approaching or overtaking vehicles. The ABS system of the next generation is suitable for front-, back- or four-wheel drive vehicles. Bosch updated the ABS control algorithm and installed new hardware. Both of them are meant to provide improved wheel slip control and braking performance. Bosch says concerning the new electric coolant pump ECP 160: “By offering a pump unit size of 110 mm x 105 mm, a maximum pressure of 3 bar, and a maximum flow rate of 14,500 l/h, the electric coolant pump ECP 160 is a real power package.”

Racing program

Bilstein used the trade fair performance in order to draw attention to set-up methods and related devices. According to experts, looking for the perfect set-up of a racing car is as complicated as a long-term wea-



Electromobility is playing a more and more important role in motorsport too.



ZF presented a new trade fair booth.



Carsten Norden, Head of Distribution/Marketing, and Rainer Meyer-Töpfer, Distribution Aftermarket, welcomed visitors at the BSS Motorsport trade fair booth.



Mark Wain belonging to Team Dynamics presented wheels for motorsport.



Whoever was looking for coilovers, was happy to find them among others offered by KW.

ther forecast: “When we consider variables like tyre pressure, aerodynamics, vehicle height, and several further aspects, there will be nearly a million different combinations”, Bilstein added. “We developed a system with a ten-step scale and click feedback. We define and document a numeric code for each set-up variation, which will result into a number of advantages”, explained Martin Flick, Head of Motorsport at Bilstein. Additionally, the vehicle experts showed the new two-way and four-way system of the Modular Damper System (MDS) at the Professional MotorSport World Expo. According to company information, the Bilstein four-way version of the MDS has one rebound and three compression levels, which offer an even broader range of independent damper system variations and individual possibilities of adaptations. The chassis manufacturer KW automotive is further expanding its modu-

Shane Yang, Manager at Nankang, presented new tyres.

lar KW Competition Motorsport Program. KW competition dampers and chassis are available in several variations and are used in official customer motorsport of different automotive manufacturers like BMW, KIA, Mercedes, Opel, Porsche, and several others. At the Professional Motorsport World Expo, KW presented new dampers for the GT4 and TCR motorsport. The four-way adjustable race car damper also celebrated its premiere in Cologne. After several tests and trials during this year’s motorsport season, the new KW four-way adjustable damper has only shortly been ahead of the official market launch for the season 2018.

Electric solutions

The company bf1systems focused on electric and electronic components as well as electric solutions for the whole vehicle at its trade fair booth. Furthermore, the company announced its cooperation with MOTEC for providing complete electric and electronic vehicle solutions for motorsport teams, manufacturers, and series. At the trade fair booth, both companies together showed tyre pressure and temperature monitoring systems, telemetric solutions, integrated electronics, like steering wheels, power distribution modules, components for power measuring, colour displays, cable harnesses, data loggers and ECUs.

GKN Motorsport displayed a range of individual drive shafts, prop shafts and related components for all the areas of motorsport. GKN Motorsport specializes in the construction and production of individual drive shafts and power train components of all the areas of motorsport, from motorsport clubs to professional teams, from street races to Formula One. The GKN range of products consists of hollow bar shafts with rolled splines of super light-weight material, easy motion plunging CV joints, updated tripod joints, advanced wheel hubs in titanium, steel prop shafts with high perfor-



Bilstein drew attention to set-up methods and related devices.

mance universal joints, and high speed CV joints.

Wheels

The topic of wheels also belongs to professional motorsport. BBS Motorsport was traditionally present at the trade fair. A one-unit rim called RT88, which was designed for motorsport, but also for road use, was added to the program. According to company information, the multi-unit wheel E88 from BBS motorsport is extremely popular among international motorsport friends. BBS motorsport will be able to react to requirements of semi-professional and track-day customers with the new rim RT88, which will be available in sizes of 19 and 20 inches.

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