



BRIDGESTONE

Premium tyres for all vehicle segments

This year, Bridgestone presented itself in Geneva again and drew attention to the latest developments of the brands Bridgestone and Firestone

The innovative “thyssenkrupp blue. cruiser“ worked as eye-catcher. In October 2017, students of the Hochschule Bochum gained the second place with this solar vehicle in the cruiser class at the Bridgestone World Solar Challenge. Bridgestone equipped the solar vehicle with Ecopia tyres offering the innovative Ologic technology, which provides outstanding fuel efficiency without any compromises in the area of grip. The bigger diameter of the tyre reduces rolling resistance, whereas the smaller tread width decreases drag. As a consequence, lower fuel consumption and thus lower CO2 emissions are achieved. At the World Solar Challenge, teams drive 3,000 kilometres in self-constructed vehicles, which run on solar energy only, across Australia. In 2017, Bridgestone was responsible for technical support and equipped four European teams and 17 further international teams with Ecopia tyres.

Air Free Concept tyres

The new Air Free Concept (AFC) tyres for bicycles were a further eye-catcher at the Bridgestone trade fair booth. Due to the Air Free Concept technology tyres can completely do without air. Bridgestone adapted the concept by developing breakdown-proof bicycles: This was possible because of a unique spoke structure consisting of resin and different rubber compounds in the interior of the tyre. The tyres are recyclable and thus contribute to sustainable use of resources.

New Turanza T005 premium touring

The Turanza T005 was particularly developed and manufactured for the European market. Thus, there was a special focus on good performance on wet roads as well as optimum control in demanding everyday situations.

During the development of the Turanza T005, Bridgestone asked a thousand end-consumers in the whole of Europe about their requirements on touring tyres and about the challenges they have to face on a daily basis. The results were quite clear. They expect a tyre to combine driving fun with a safe driving experience.



The new luxury hybrid Coupé Lexus LC500h equipped with 20-inch Turanza T005 tyres with Run Flat technology as original equipment.

They would like to be in control in both everyday and challenging situations, above all on wet roads. Moreover, the tyre has to provide low fuel consumption or respectively the best tyre label values like high mileage.

The results are to be applauded. Audi chose the new Bridgestone Turanza T005 as original equipment of its Audi A7 Sportback. The premium touring tyre with NanoPro-Tech technology is characterized by a cutting-edge rubber compound with an extraordinarily high amount of silica and is combined with a particularly developed tread design. Thus, the Turanza T005 does not only offer good label values but also excellent driving performance. Regardless under what conditions, the tyres labelled as “Audi Original“ offer good steering behaviour, safe driving experience, and strong traction even on wet roads. As of now, the Turanza T005 is available for drivers of the Audi A7 Sportback in tyre sizes from 17” to 21”.

Furthermore, Bridgestone uses the specially developed B-Silent™ technology for sizes from 19” to 21” in order to keep the rolling noise of the Turanza as low as possible on all the different grounds and to increase driving comfort significantly. A polyurethane foam material at the interior



The Air Free Concept shows an interesting solution for bicycles.

of the tread area reduces resonance of the tyre hollow and thus the noise level in the interior of the vehicle without limiting dynamics or performance of the tyre.

At the Bridgestone trade fair booth, visitors were able to admire the new luxury hybrid Coupé Lexus LC500h equipped with 20-inch Turanza T005 tyres with Run Flat technology as original equipment. Moreover, the Lexus equips the LC 500 with RFT tyres Potenza S001L as standard tyres. The two RFT tyres Potenza S001L and Turanza T005 were exclusively developed for Lexus by Bridgestone in order to guarantee a convincing driving performance of the sport Coupés. **(oth)**

Increase in hot-cured compounds

Kraiburg Austria describes 2017 as a “satisfying business year“: The retreading specialist from Upper Austria achieved turnover of 67.9 million euros last year. This stands for an increase of 13 per cent compared to 2016 – primarily boosted by passing on rising prices for raw materials. In 2017, the company stabilized sales of treads and noticed an increase in hot-cured compounds.

According to responsible people, several rounds of price increases were necessary because of turbulent cost developments of natural and synthetic rubber. “Achieving growths in the premium hot-cured compounds section again was finally responsible for contributing to the overall positive picture. Furthermore, we were able to keep sales stable in the business of pre-cured treads”, comments Stefan Mayrhofer, Deputy Managing Director at Kraiburg Austria. “Moreover, we are very pleased that we were able to achieve a considerable increase of 25 % in sales in our Ergolastec division, which produces many different types of workplace mats.” Kraiburg invested in the location Geretsberg in order to be always at the cutting-edge of technology in all the different segments. According to company information, replacing an old compounder by a new aggregate involved a budget of millions in the area of tangible assets.

Kraiburg also increased the number of employees in key areas like product management and sales. Furthermore, outstanding results were achieved concerning the mandatory 3PMSF marking: “Because of close cooperation with associations at national and European level, we succeeded in giving our customers optimum support and ensuring a trouble-free changeover to the new year regarding the snowflake label, Christoph Priewasser, Product Manager, explains. The “service to the customers” in the form of committed representation of their interests and extensive, specific on-site support is also at the top of the agenda in 2018.

According to responsible people, sales will still focus on Spain. Alessandro Bottesini Campos, the new Sales Manager, was apparently quite successful in winning customers in 2017. “This year, we are expecting several impulses, which will reactivate the European retreading market. The current anti-dumping campaign against truck and bus tyres from China will also play a role that is not to be underestimated. No matter how this ends, it will definitely give our



Enormous investment in new equipment took place.



In 2017, the Kraiburg Austria stabilized sales of treads.

industry, which has been hit hard for many years, a new boost of confidence”, Holger Düx, Head of Sales Retread Materials at Kraiburg Austria says. “We will know more

about the enforceability of anti-dumping by the first edition of “The Tire Cologne” in Cologne.”

(kle)



At the award ceremony in the port of Rostock (f. l.): Steffen Rennecke, Managing Director at DHT Group, Fred Sittig, Driver at DHT Group, Christoph Niederbröker, District Manager East at Continental Reifen Deutschland, Konrad Schoknecht, Managing Director at DHT Group and Karsten Jedamzik, Sales Manager at Continental Reifen Deutschland.

“BEAT-THE-BEST“

Efficiency trimmer from Continental

The “Beat-the-Best“ competition encourages forwarding agents to compete with other competitors concerning fuel-efficient driving and to try Continental’s latest tyre generation at the same time. The winner not only receives a ContiPressureCheck system but is also invited to the Truck Grand Prix weekend at Nürburgring.

This year, DHT Group from Poppendorf near Rostock has ranked first in the competition. Steffen Rennecke, Managing Director, is looking forward to the forthcoming performance at Truck Grand Prix: “The feeling of driving in a long convoy with other trucks on the race track is truly amazing”. The driver Fred Sittig was able to bring home the victory at the „Beat-the-Best“ competition. He succeeded in saving 2.9 litres of fuel per 100 kilometres with his tractor unit. Rennecke praises his anticipatory way of driving: “He does an outstanding job. Modern forwarding software, an efficient telematics app and the best vehicle equipment support our drivers. According to the forwarding agent, Continental’s tyres are also part of this. Since 1990, the owner-run company has been transporting customers’ goods with 97 tractors and

semi-trailers in the forwarding and logistics area. Packed goods and bulked material are transported for the chemical industry and for the food industry all over Germany. Each vehicle has an annual mileage of 120,000 kilometres. The achieved fuel saving stands for an annual decrease of 3,000 euros in company expenses per vehicle.

In the framework of the 14th fuel-saving competition, the third generation of Conti tyres demonstrated the promised performance. The company in Hanover describes the tyre series Conti Hybrid as extremely suitable for achieving low fuel consumption. The Conti Hybrid HS3/ HD3/ HT3 are supposed to provide economic efficiency on every kilometre. “The Conti Hybrid is the best choice for our customers in regional traffic to save fuel, to reduce CO2 emissions, and to achieve the lowest over-

all costs on the bottom line”, says Henning Mühlenstedt, Head of Sales and Marketing Bus and Truck Tyres Replacement Business D-A-C-H.

The drivers’ performances in the second and third position of the competition are also worth mentioning. Heinrich Grummel GmbH & Co. KG from Werlte came in second and its driver Vladimir Schiller was able to save 2.83 of fuel per 100 kilometres. The driver Dieter Hessel saved 2.55 litres per 100 kilometres and finished as third. The wholesale and logistics company has been transporting goods with today 21 tractor units and 40 semi-trailers and trailers all over Germany and the Benelux countries. The goods consist of peat products for horticultural production plants in the region, paper, cardboard and concrete parts. **(kle)**

All-season tyres remain a compromise

“All-season tyres have reached an incredible level”, the test editors at AutoBild Allrad sum up in their current all-season tyre test (5/2018). Nonetheless, they still have to be considered as a compromise compared with a pure winter or summer tyre – AutoBild Allrad tested both a pure summer and winter tyre too in order to get a better perspective when judging the performance of all-season tyres. The test result does not offer any big surprises though.

The AutoBild Allrad testers focused on six all-season tyres in dimension 235/60R 18 equipped with the M+S marking and the snowflake symbol, and two all-terrain tyres - having the M+S and the 3PMSF symbol as well - in their current test. The **Goodyear Vector 4Seasons SUV Gen-2** receives as test winner the rating “excellent” as the only tyre. The testers describe it as “balanced all-season tyre for the road”, which is able to convince on snow-covered and wet roads. The price, however, is not considered as convincing and the testers mention it as “weakness”.

The **Michelin CrossClimate SUV** comes in as second with the rating “good” as well as the tyres in positions from three to five. The Michelin tyre is supposed to be nearly as good as a summer tyre on dry

roads, but the tyre testers measure a longer braking distance on snow. Two tyres have to share the third position: According to AutoBild Allrad the **Nokian Weatherproof SUV** offers a high level of aquaplaning safety, although it is to break longer on dry roads. The Vredestein Quadrac 5 is able to score high with “good grip on wet roads” and “short wet braking distance”, whereas it only offers a mediocre aquaplaning performance.

The **Hankook Kinergy 4S** is the next in line with “good aquaplaning safety” and a reasonable price, but scoring lower because of an “extended breaking distance on snow and in dry conditions”. The Mastersteel All Weather from China finishes the test with “satisfactory” and the sixth position. Although it is cost-efficient, it has

much longer braking distances on wet and dry roads.

What about the AT tyres? The rough profile is striking. According to AutoBild Allrad, this, however, does not offer much support in snowy conditions – as one could assume – and is only of limited use concerning aquaplaning. The tyre testers even advise against using the **General Tire Grabber AT3**, as it provides only “dangerously limited wet grip” and the long braking distance on snow is also criticized. The **Yokohama Geolandar A/T G015** is to be “commendable with limitations”. Although the tyre testers praise its directional control on snow and its “balanced dry handling”, it has too long braking distances on snowy on wet roads. Moreover, rolling resistance is said to be extremely high. (akl)



Goodyear normally scores well in all-season tyre tests: This time, the Vector 4Seasons SUV Gen-2 wins.



“PS“ TEST

Quick start for DIABLO ROSSO CORSA II

The new DIABLO ROSSO CORSA II from Pirelli performs a real quick start: The Italian rubber gets top ratings in all the categories and secures the win in the comparison test of hyper sports tyres in the current edition 6-2018 of the specialized magazine “PS“.

The Italian tyre performs under all conditions in an outstanding way, is the best all-rounder, and thus, deserves the first position. As swift as an arrow on dry or wet roads, it never lowers its guard. According to the summary, “it sets the only top rating concerning cold running behaviour and wet grip”. Moreover, it is said that, Pirelli uses three different compounds at the back, which spread over five zones for the first time. At the front, you can find two compounds being spread over three zones. As a consequence, high mileage, and grip and a sloping position are

to be generated at the same time”. The rating focused on cold running behaviour, handling, accuracy, stability, grip, behaviour in border areas, righting moment, and feedback. Dry conditions were tested on the “Circuit d’Alcarràs“ in Northern Spain, and wet conditions on a special test area in Southern France. A BMW S 1000 RR served as testing motorbike.

“The testers at PS wanted the tyre to really face demanding exercises, thus, we are of course extremely satisfied that the DIABLO ROSSO CORSA II performs that well”, Michael Müller, Head of the Business

Area Two-Wheel Vehicles in Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Benelux at PIRELLI, happily announces. “I am especially pleased that our tyre is able to lead the field in both dry and wet conditions. As a consequence, a big praise is directed to our development team.” The Pirelli DIABLO ROSSO CORSA II receives a total of 296 points, followed by the Continental Race-attack Comp. Endurance (294 points), the Dunlop Sportsmart TT (287 points) and finally the Michelin Power RS (275 points).

(kle)



The new DIABLO ROSSO CORSA II from Pirelli performs a real quick start.