ZF Wins Major Business for New 8-Speed Automatic Transmission

- Order from BMW AG with a two digit billion Euro value for advanced 8-speed automatic transmission
- Flexible application of technology
- Significant increase in planned share of hybrid transmissions
- Production to begin at ZF’s Saarbrücken plant in 2022
- Production also planned to be localized in the USA

Friedrichshafen. ZF Friedrichshafen AG has received a customer order for its enhanced 8-speed automatic transmission with a double digit billion value. The business is planned to run over a period of several years. The latest version of ZF’s 8-speed transmission – a technology which has been production since 2009 - has been optimized by integrating an electric drive. This also includes a hybrid variant.

The new transmission generation will start series production in 2022 at ZF’s plant in Saarbrücken, the lead production facility for ZF’s automatic passenger car transmissions. The company also plans to start production of the technology at further locations including the USA and China in the future.

“This business win is the largest single order in the history of ZF,” said ZF’s CEO Wolf-Henning Scheider. "When it comes to the electrification of passenger cars, in addition to pure electric drives, it confirms our strategy to focus on plug-in hybrids as an every-day solution and to develop attractive products in these areas."

Optimized for electrification
The new 8-speed automatic transmission can be installed in almost all vehicle classes with a front-longitudinal drive configuration. A technical innovation of the upgraded transmission is the integration of the electric drive. "We have consistently optimized our 8-speed automatic transmission according to future e-mobility requirements,” explained
Michael Hankel, member of the ZF Board of Management responsible among other areas for transmission technology and e-mobility. "With a modular construction using various starting elements, the new generation hybrid transmission offers a flexible solution which is suitable for all passenger cars – both conventional as well as electric."

Hankel continued: “The order was based on the fact that the customer sees our technology as a sustainable drive solution for its vehicles which supports them in achieving CO₂ targets. In addition, the possibility to easily change from one transmission variant to another allows our customer the flexibility to react to market requirements.

"Alongside the significant CO₂ savings potential, this high degree of flexibility is resulting in strong interest in our transmission. We are in very promising discussions with other customers."

"The order also reinforces the importance of our global production network," added Hankel. "Following the start of production in Saarbrücken in 2022, we will also manufacture this next generation transmission for further customers at our locations in Gray Court, USA, and Shanghai, China."

Caption:
ZF’s enhanced 8-speed automatic transmission will start production at its Saarbrücken plant in 2022. ZF has received a double digit billion order from BMW AG for this product.

Image: ZF

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ZF Friedrichshafen AG
ZF is a global technology company and supplies systems for passenger cars, commercial vehicles and industrial technology, enabling the next generation of mobility. With its comprehensive technology portfolio, the company offers integrated solutions for established vehicle manufacturers, mobility providers and start-up companies in the fields of transportation and mobility.

ZF continually enhances its systems in the areas of digital connectivity and automation in order to allow vehicles to see, think and act.

In 2018, ZF achieved sales of €36.9 billion. The company has a global workforce of 149,000 with approximately 230 locations in 40 countries. ZF invests over six percent of its sales in research and development annually.

Further press information and images can be found on www.zf.com.