



Sustained Success: ZF Celebrates 500,000 Active Rear-Axle Control Systems

- **AKC system number 500,000 (Active Kinematics Control) rolls off the line just six years after start of production**
- **Production milestone underlines ZF's leadership in Vehicle Motion Control**
- **New assembly line in Lebring to serve increasing demand**

Dielingen/Lebring (Austria). With its AKC (Active Kinematics Control) system, ZF offers automotive manufacturers worldwide enhanced safety, dynamics and comfort. The new volume production milestone underlines OEMs trust in the company's chassis competence. ZF has reached the half-million mark in just under six years from start of production.

"500,000 systems is a real achievement and confirmation of ZF's technology leadership in the field of Vehicle Motion Control," says Dr. Peter Holdmann, Head of the Car Chassis Technology Division at ZF.

"Both manufacturers and end customers around the world expect enhanced safety, dynamics and comfort. These are qualities our Active Kinematics Control significantly improves."

The AKC rear-axle control system provides meaningful advantages, especially in critical driving situations and during braking. Today, a large number of international automobile manufacturers include the system in their vehicles. It is suitable for all drive types – conventional combustion engines, hybrids or pure electric motors. ZF is celebrating the new record at its plant in Lebring, Austria, only two years after reaching the 100,000 mark and six years after production start.

Dynamic with enhanced safety for the automotive future

When driving slowly through narrow streets, the AKC steers contrary to the front wheels' steering angle. This reduces the turning circle by up to ten percent, making the car much easier to maneuver. At higher speeds, i.e. about 60 km/h and above, as well as during obstacle-



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avoidance maneuvers, the system steers the rear wheels in the same direction as the front wheels, which helps improve directional stability and driving dynamics. Furthermore, AKC supports automated driving and the necessary system redundancy, partially steering a vehicle without turning the front wheels.

Right for any axle architecture

ZF supplies the AKC system in two variants. The so-called dual adjuster version consists of one actuator positioned on each rear wheel. This design first went into volume production in 2013. It is especially suitable for sports cars as it saves valuable space on the central rear axle, where the engine, tank or other components typically sit in this type of vehicle. The central adjuster design – with a single, larger and centrally placed actuator – is ideal for larger cars, pick-ups or SUVs.

Strong growth

"Currently, around 1,000 AKC systems roll off the line every day," says Robert Lamprecht, Plant Manager in Lebring. "To meet demand, we're planning a considerable increase in capacity over the next few years." To support this, a new, third production line was installed recently. Another assembly line is already in the planning stages. In the long term, this will enable ZF to produce a total of over one million AKC systems per year.

Captions:

- 1) The AKC active kinematics control system from ZF transforms car rear axles into additional steering systems helping to enhance vehicle safety, comfort and driving dynamics.
- 2) Proud of No. 500,000: Robert Lamprecht, Plant Manager at ZF's location in Lebring, Austria, with his team (front row, rightmost)

Photos: ZF



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Press Contact:

Jeannine Rapp

Head of Corporate & Marketing Communications Car Chassis

Technology Division Phone: +49 5474 60-2190, Cell: + 49 162 4362879

Jeannine.rapp@zf.com

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. Digital networking and automation are focal points of ZF system development. ZF allows vehicles to see, think and act.

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

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