Clear Vision

Dear Reader,

The term “clear vision” can have two meanings in the automotive world. Firstly, drivers need to have a clear view of the cockpit, the road, the surroundings and the traffic as they drive. To do this, they need to use their most important sense: their eyesight. Engineers have developed numerous lighting assistants to improve visibility in the dark and to reduce the risk of accidents. The next step is the implementation of high-beam headlights that are glare-free, allowing their use to be increased from 5 % up to 70 to 90 % of the switch-on share when driving at night. In addition, on page 4 of this issue of ATZ, we report in detail on two innovative developments for the Mercedes-Benz CLS-Class and the VW Passat. These LED systems give visibility a new dimension.

A vehicle’s lighting not only illuminates the road, it must also be instantly recognised and interpreted. For that reason, in addition to cornering lights and active lights as well as assistants such as motorway lighting and city lighting, we also need a lighting assistant that helps us to use our indicators. The number of people who signal in the wrong direction or do not even bother to indicate at all is getting out of hand. In the German state of Hesse, this has become such a problem that the safety campaign “Zeichen setzen” (Give a signal) has been initiated. As a situation example the poster shows a roundabout. Drivers are required to indicate when they are about to leave the roundabout, as this is equivalent to turning. However, indicating when entering a roundabout is even expressly prohibited by German road traffic regulations.

“Clear vision” can also refer to the car market. What will the year 2015 bring? As well as political and business researchers, consultants from Arthur

D. Little have also been gazing into their crystal ball. On the one hand, they are expecting a growing demand for mobility services; on the other hand, they see cuts in mobility budgets and a growing reluctance to invest in expensive new cars. Therefore, the demand for eco-friendly and resource-efficient drive systems and mobility concepts will sustainably change the market structures.

With the benefit of this insight and foresight, I hope you enjoy clear vision every day – and every night – over the coming year.

Best regards,

Dipl.-Ing. Michael Reichenbach,
Vice Editor-in-Chief
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