INTELLIGENT SOLUTIONS

Dear Reader,

Commercial vehicles transport around three-quarters of all goods in Europe and the trend is growing. Without trucks on the roads, our modern buying behaviour would not be possible. In addition, because all other means of transport rely on logistical support from trucks, before we can simply move freight from the roads to other forms of transport, we need a clear, forward-looking concept that will allow us to network all the different transport systems.

The most important issue for trucks, in just the same way as for cars, is reducing fuel consumption and emissions from two different perspectives: cutting operating costs and lowering the impact of emissions on the environment. For this reason, the commercial vehicle industry is working at high speed to develop intelligent solutions for the future. At this year's IAA Commercial Vehicles, new, clean Euro VI engines will be on display, together with innovative hybrid drives and heat energy recovery systems.

Improving aerodynamics and reducing rolling resistance are, of course, also crucial considerations. Once again it is clear that by taking a lot of small measures it is possible to have a big impact. As the old saying of locomotive designers goes: "You can't reduce the weight by a tonne in any one place, but you can reduce it by a kilo in a thousand places."

Although hybrid drives for commercial vehicles are still a thing of the future, this is an area with a great deal of promise, because the driving patterns of trucks

offer significant potential for energy recovery and, therefore, for the efficient use of hybrid technology. The essential factor here is the cost of hybrid systems, because for haulage companies the purchase price and the operating costs are more important now than ever before. It will be up to the manufacturers to introduce suitable innovations and put them on the road.

In this issue of MTZ, we give you a comprehensive overview of the latest innovative solutions. These include the potential for developing basic engines and the new generation of Mercedes-Benz diesel engines for medium-sized trucks. Commercial vehicle development is more exciting than it has ever been.

With best regards,

DR. ALEXANDER HEINTZEL, Editor in Chief
Wiesbaden, 14 August 2012