In Coronavirus Times

Dear Reader,

Everyone is talking about just one subject: the coronavirus. Against the background of all the essential restrictions and regulations, the most important considerations are thoughtfulness, fairness and solidarity. I was encouraged by the fact that many companies took the initiative early on by offering help, getting involved and protecting their employees. Working at home is now the latest trend. The Springer Nature publishing group also strongly recommended that we work at home at a very early stage. Therefore, this issue, ATZ 6, is completely home-produced. "Homeoffice" could be the word of the year in Germany when the Gesellschaft für deutsche Sprache, Germany's most important government-sponsored language society, will carry out its review of the previous eleven months in November.

Automotive industry suppliers and car manufacturers have made many contributions worthy of imitation to combatting the virus. Here are just three examples. Groupe PSA and Valeo worked with Air Liquide and Schneider Electric to set up a task force of 30 purchasing and industrialization specialists to produce around 100,000 ventilators in just 50 days. Brembo decided to donate one million euros to three outstanding institutions in the Bergamo region: the Papa Giovanni XXIII hospital, the Fondazione per la Ricerca Ospedale di Bergamo and the Mario Negri Institute, all of which operate in the area hardest hit by the pandemic and combine clinical and pharmacological research.

Researchers at Bosch Healthcare Solutions, a relatively unknown subsidiary of the automotive industry supplier Bosch, have developed a fast test for the coronavirus in just six weeks. As CEO Volkmar Denner explained to the Swiss newspaper Neue Zürcher Zeitung, this allows an

analysis to be carried out at the treatment location to reliably detect the virus in less than two-and-a-half hours. As a result, patients with the infection can be identified and isolated more quickly. Could this be the light at the end of the tunnel?

At the end of April, when we went to press, discussions were still underway about correctly restarting our economy. Car production has already begun again in China. What will happen when the crisis is over? Then, car dealerships will reopen and our hairdressers will be rushed off their feet making sure that everything looks neat and tidy before you take part in our ATZlive conferences, even if "only" digitally. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this year's 11th International Chassis Symposium „chassis.tech plus“ will be purely virtual. So don't miss our first online conference on June 23 and 24, 2020. Participate safely from home.

Stay healthy, stay safe!

Michael Reichenbach

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