AGRICULTURAL MACHINES

User-centric Design

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Jobs that last all day and, during the harvesting season, even continue on into the night require agricultural machines that offer not only effectiveness but also an ergonomically-suitable approach. To enable this, all critical components must be optimized accordingly. Engineers can be trusted to always come up with solutions that no one has ever thought of before and/or were not previously technically possible.

Cameras have been used on agricultural machines for a long time. Normally, they are permanently installed and dedicated to a specific purpose. But not the system that Continental has developed: A wireless camera designed for the typically raw conditions prevalent in farming is dismountable and captures views that were previously inaccessible for the driver. The dismountable camera can be mounted on the vehicle, trailer or even on a building either directly and securely on magnetic metal surfaces thanks to powerful Neodym magnets located in the base of the casing, or in a plastic mount that can be screwed in place at the desired location.

When we originally requested an interview with Christoff Gröblichhoff, the new Chairman of the Board at Agco/Fendt, at the end of January 2020, we had actually focused on different topics for discussion. Then the viral illness Covid-19 hit so hard, that we dedicated the first questions to the effects of the virus. Despite the pandemic, there was enough space for other topics such as low-emissions solutions and digitalization, as can be read starting on page 18.

Tractors are used for a wide range of jobs. In accordance with this, tractor operation must also be very flexible. The multi-function joystick and armrest plays a major role in working ergonomically. At the moment, the operating panel in farm tractors is usually designed to be static. The University of Stuttgart has developed a functional prototype of a newly designed operating armrest together with the University of Hohenheim and Elobau. The unique feature of this armrest control panel is that it adapts itself to a range of operational scenarios.

Andreas Fuchs