Crystal Ball

Dear Reader,

At the moment, what could be more desirable than a crystal ball that enables a glimpse into the future? Decision-makers in the economy are currently faced with a number of questions: What happens next in the Covid-19 saga, which powertrain technologies will assert themselves in the future, when will the infrastructure be extended and for which technologies?

In terms of Covid-19, the worst is currently to be expected. The number of infections is rising in Germany and in Europe due to the waves of holiday-makers traveling to and from their holiday destinations and the non-adherence to recommended protective measures. Many people now fear a second wave in late summer, even before the one anticipated in the fall. Let's hope that won't be the case!

The EU's CO₂ emissions standards for the heavy duty traffic represent huge challenges for the vehicle industry. Many manufacturers are faced with the question of which technologies will dominate in the future. It seems to be clear at least that there will be a mixed portfolio. Currently, there is a lot of research activity in the heavy duty sector regarding electric, hybrid and gas-powered vehicles. The use of combustion engines with synthetic fuels seems to be a further sensible solution.

Many of the new solutions, however, require a corresponding charging or filling infrastructure or the appropriate capacity for the manufacture of synthetic fuels if they are to be economi-

cally viable. These must be publicly pre-financed or subsidized. This is almost inconceivable in the current coronavirus situation where money is a scarce resource. But as long as the infrastructure is lacking, many vehicle users will shy away from investing in vehicles with new technologies. We'd need that crystal ball again to see which infrastructure will be available (the quickest) and for which technology.

Enjoy reading the current edition of your ATZheavyduty. Stay safe and healthy.

Andreas Fuchs
Responsible Editor

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