

BHTC brings car-like comfort to trucks

Energy-saving climate control for commercial vehicles

Lippstadt / Hanover, September 2008.

Lippstadt-based specialist for vehicle climate control, Behr-Hella Thermocontrol GmbH (BHTC), will use this year's show to present innovative concepts for energy-saving climate control technology. "Our approach involves the integration of components in order to avoid unnecessary wiring and equipment, as well as the adoption of intelligent climate management software that will only provide the necessary output when it is genuinely required," explains Friedrich Waldeyer, technical managing director at BHTC.

A further trend is towards enhancing the truck cab to the status of workplace for drivers. This includes levels of climate control and intuitive usability similar to those found in cars, conveniently and individually designed surfaces which help increase both attractiveness and functionality. Drawing from experience gained from the car market, Europe's number one in vehicle climate control meets customer requirements for appealing and individual cabs with climate control systems that are tailored to commercial vehicle needs. Thus, it is the OEMs who stand to benefit from the know-how gained from the car market by the climate control experts from Lippstadt.

In addition, European commercial vehicle manufacturers are making intensive preparations for the introduction of the EURO 6 standard in 2011-2012, which will require further reductions in harmful emissions. Hence all manufacturers are currently working on facelifts of existing models, or planning the introduction on entirely new ranges. "Our latest generation of climate control systems with AC/ECO functionality is already making its contribution to helping our customers meet these new requirements," explains Waldeyer. Based on its comprehensive know-how, BHTC provides entire climate control systems, which are able to supply consistently high climatic comfort at constantly low levels of energy consumption. Indeed, BHTC focuses its development efforts on achieving innovation within the areas of environmental protection, comfort and safety: drivers, who breathe fresh,

temperature-controlled air, and who do not need to worry about maintaining their preferred temperature in the cab because the automatic climate control does that for them, stay fresh and alert for longer, and can give traffic their full attention.

Despite the generally rapid growth of the commercial vehicle market in recent years, Norbert Gruber, commercial managing director at BHTC, identifies further business potential for the Lippstadt-based company in this sector. "Although we only entered this sector five years ago, we are already approaching a market share of 30% for commercial vehicles in Europe. With our technical know-how and innovative ideas, we are in the best position to build on that success."

Key elements of the BHTC exhibit in Hanover are climate control concepts which meet the current requirements set by the environment, fleet operators and drivers: energy-saving and CO₂ reducing technology; robust, reliable and maintenance-free systems, which are able to cope with the toughest of conditions; and easy-to-use displays and widely-automated climate control functions, which allow the driver in the truck cab to concentrate fully on the traffic.

Exhibits on the stand include:

- MAN climate control panel with modular climate control unit
- Volvo climate control panel with integrated, unventilated interior temperature sensor
- Mercedes-Benz Sprinter climate control panel
- Actros rear climate control panel

Visit us at IAA Nfz in Hanover 25.9.-2.10.2008

Hall 12, Stand C05

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Behr-Hella Thermocontrol GmbH (BHTC) is one of the leading manufacturers of control panels and control units for automotive climate control. Its most important product group is electronic climate control panels; climate sensors and blower controllers extend its portfolio. BHTC provides a full range of services, from design and development through to the serial production of complete climate control systems.

BHTC was founded in 1999 as a joint venture of Behr GmbH & Co. KG and Hella KGaA Hueck & Co. Today, it has a workforce of around 1,300 employees worldwide. BHTC has facilities in Lippstadt/Germany (headquarters), Shanghai/China, Pune/India, Tokyo/Japan as well as Troy and Wixom/USA. Turnover during the business year 2007 was approximately 250 million Euros.