

**ATZ**

WORLDWIDE

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Volume 126



**SUSTAINABILITY**

# Setting Ambitious CO<sub>2</sub> Targets

## **SYSTEMS**

for Vehicle Dynamics with a  
High Level of Safety and Comfort

## **COATING**

of Brake Discs for a Reduction of  
Fine Dust Emissions

## **PASSENGER COMFORT**

under Increasingly Complex  
Boundary Conditions

**/// INTERVIEW** Ulf Zillig [Mercedes-Benz]

**/// GUEST COMMENTARY** Jan Leilich [Edag]

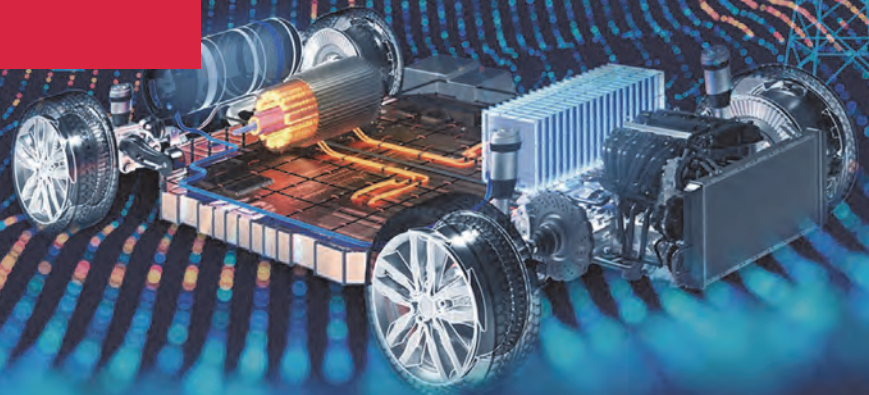


# Powertrains and Energy Systems of Tomorrow 2024

The need for accelerated  
market-driven implementation

14 – 15 May 2024  
Chemnitz, Germany

- / POWERTRAIN SOLUTIONS FOR HEV, PHEV,  
BEV, AND FCEV
- / INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENERGY CHAINS
- / GRID INTEGRATION
- / INTERNATIONAL APPROACHES
- / SUSTAINABILITY



# A fitness-to-drive test?

Dear Reader,

we have all seen it happen on the escalator at the airport. As you walk onto metal step at the top, you watch with an amused grin as the travelers at the bottom wrestle desperately to maneuver their luggage trolleys safely onto solid ground, while their suitcases and bags are falling off on either side. Your amusement at their efforts lasts only until you yourself arrive at the bottom of the escalator and the wheels of your own trolley get wedged in the grooves in the step.

Age works in a similar way. Young people often observe the problems experienced by older people with a smile and waste very little energy thinking about the idea that the escalator of life is taking everyone to a place where they will have difficulties with their bags. The question of older people's fitness to drive is brought up regularly in the media. A study by the German Environment Agency indicates that over the last two decades driving among the elderly has increased significantly.

According to a survey carried out by the German radio station MDR in 2023, around 87 % of participants felt that remaining on four wheels in old age is very important. In addition, 75 % were in favor of measures to test older people's fitness to drive. AutoScout24, a European online car market, held a representative survey of car owners with the help of Innofact, a market research company, to discover what drivers themselves think on this subject. The results were clear: 86 % of the survey respondents support the idea of a fitness-to-drive test. The EU is in the process of drawing up regulations in this area and, in the future, people aged 70 and over may have to take a fitness-to-drive test every five years.

There is a widespread assumption that older drivers cause an above-average

proportion of the serious accidents on our roads, but the accident statistics paint a different picture. According to the German Federal Statistical Office, people aged 65 and over caused only 17.4 % of the traffic accidents involving injuries in 2021. This is a smaller proportion of accidents than the corresponding percentage of the population, which is around 22 %. Manfred Wirsch, president of the German Road Safety Council, believes "that mandatory fitness-to-drive tests for older car drivers should not be the first option we choose."

What is less well known is that a fitness-to-drive test would lead to discrimination against a whole social group. Women's response times increase more than those of men in old age and so they would be the first to have to give up their driver's licenses.

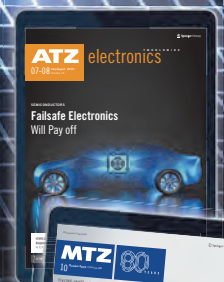
In addition, there is a much simpler and more effective way of bringing about an immediate and drastic improvement in road safety in Germany. It's called a speed limit.

FT

Frank Jung  
Editor



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## SUSTAINABILITY

# Setting Ambitious CO<sub>2</sub> Targets

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The European Union and Japan want to be CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral by 2050, China by 2060 and the USA is aiming for a 50-% reduction by 2030. The international automotive industry also wants to make its contribution by focusing on resource-efficient batteries, CO<sub>2</sub>-free production, and green steel, among other things.

## 14 Introduction

Frank Jung

## 16 Design to CO<sub>2</sub>eq – The Reality Check

Thomas Schmid, Martin Rothbart, Christoph Sams [AVL]

## 22 INTERVIEW

“We aim to stop using fossil energy sources completely by 2039”

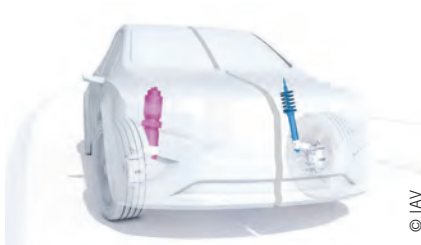
Ulf Zillig [Mercedes-Benz]



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## 26 CO<sub>2</sub>-reduced Steel Body for Ride-sharing Vehicles

George Coates, Russ Balzer, Cees ten Broek [WorldAutoSteel], Neil McGregor [Ricardo]



© IAV

**38** Vertical dynamics are important for driving safety and comfort. IAV, TU Darmstadt and Industrial Science are presenting two components to overcome conflicting objectives.



© HPL Technologies

**42** Euro 7 sets emission threshold values for brake systems for the first time. HPL Technologies uses a special coating on the brake discs to reduce particulate matter by 90 %.



© FKFS

**56** In new vehicle concepts, thermal and noise comfort have a significant influence on the driving experience of the occupants. The FKFS is developing methods for quantifying them.

## CONTENTS

3 Editorial

### NEWS

6 [springerprofessional.com](https://springerprofessional.com)  
7 Impulses

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

8 China's Automotive Industry – Pragmatism as a Strategy  
Frank Urbansky

## COVER STORY

### SUSTAINABILITY

14 Setting Ambitious CO<sub>2</sub> Targets

### NEWS

34 Companies + Products

## DEVELOPMENT

### CHASSIS

38 New Systems for Vehicle Dynamics with a High Level of Safety and Comfort  
Mark Wielitzka, Marcus Perner [IAV], Peter F. Pelz [TU Darmstadt], Ingo Dietrich [Industrial Science]

42 Coating Process for the Drastic Reduction of Fine Dust Emissions from Brake Discs  
Phillip Utsch [HPL Technologies], Johannes Henrich Schleifenbaum [RWTH Aachen University and HPL Technologies]

### METHODS | PROCESSES

48 Procedure Model for the Use of Machine Learning  
Dominik Strube [Kugler Maag]

## CONFERENCE REPORT

54 3<sup>rd</sup> ATZ Digital Conference Sustainability in Automotive – Circular Economy as a Basic Prerequisite  
Alexander Heintzel

## RESEARCH

### ERGONOMICS

56 Passenger's Comfort under Increasingly Complex Boundary Conditions  
Christoph Heimsath, Domenic Staron, Andreas Wagner [FKFS], Daniel Gehringer [University of Stuttgart]

### AUTONOMOUS DRIVING

60 From Test Sites to Public Roads – A Look at the Global Status of Shared Autonomous Vehicles  
Marvin Greifenstein, Andreas Herrmann [University of St. Gallen], Hartmut Güthner [PwC Strategy&], Felix Kuhnert [PwC]

## SERVICE

53 Imprint, Scientific Advisory Board  
65 Preview

### GUEST COMMENTARY

66 Recognizing and Seizing AI Opportunities  
Jan Leilich [Edag]



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# Automated Driving 2024

## Engineering Level X

19 – 20 March 2024

Frankfurt am Main, Germany

### **NEW** TECHNOLOGY STACK

ADAS/AD  
Driving functions  
Standardization

### **NEW** SYSTEM OF SYSTEMS

ODD scenarios  
Systems engineering  
Safety + security

### **PROCESSES + DEVELOPMENT METHODOLOGY**

Virtualization  
Programming models  
Tools and utilities

### IN FOCUS

Latest developments and  
architectures –  
strategies for the future





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