

**Automatic water disposal for diesel fuel filters**

Stuttgart, Germany, October 2007 — The water content of diesel fuels varies considerably from one region to the next. The automotive supplier MAHLE, headquartered in Stuttgart, Germany, has developed an automatic water disposal system that eliminates regular visits to specialist repair shops for manual drainage of the water during the overall service life of the engine. In addition, it reduces the risks of damages to the injection system and engine.

Modern injection systems, such as the common rail technology, are very sensitive to water suspended in the diesel fuel. Particularly in countries with a high water content in the fuel, such as in the USA, Brazil, China, and other parts of Asia, this poses great risk. To prevent corrosion, cavitation, microbiological growth, and other negative effects, effective water separation is essential. MAHLE offers highly efficient diesel fuel filters with water separation for the intake or thrust side. Once the water has been separated, it must be disposed of. This is where the automatic water disposal system from MAHLE comes into operation.

For passenger car applications, a visit to a specialist repair shop was required to date for the disposal of the collected water. In heavy commercial vehicles, the driver had to drain the separated water nearly every day. This is not only time-consuming, but can also be harmful to the environment. MAHLE has therefore equipped the new automatic water disposal system with an innovative HC adsorber. This cleaning unit guarantees that the separated water is of drinking water quality.

Automatic water disposal protects the injection system and the entire engine. The patented MAHLE system is controlled by a water level sensor. Once the water line reaches a certain level, a solenoid valve opens in the case of a thrust-side application; in an intake-side application, a drainage pump is activated. The system can therefore be used in all applications. MAHLE offers the automatic water disposal system as an integrated and an adapted solution. Even existing fuel filter modules can be retrofitted.

The MAHLE Group is one of the 30 largest automotive suppliers worldwide. As the leading manufacturer of components and systems for the internal combustion engine and its peripherals, MAHLE is among the top 3 systems suppliers for piston systems, cylinder components, valve train systems, air management systems, and liquid management systems. With more than 40,000 employees in 110 production plants and seven research and development centers, MAHLE generated sales in excess of EUR 4.3 billion (USD 5.8 billion) in 2006.

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