

Aftermarket of tomorrow—what does the electric motor mean for independent workshops?

- Complex thermal management opens up new business segments for workshops
- MAHLE provides systems solutions quickly and reliably, with OEM expertise

Stuttgart/Germany, November 18, 2019 – The advent of e-mobility is often accompanied by uncertainty for workshops. How much maintenance does an electric motor need? What sort of repair volume can be expected? Which are the common models and voltage levels? And how can workshops obtain the information needed to ensure safe, efficient, and fast maintenance and repairs? This is where MAHLE Aftermarket comes in, as a 360° solutions provider with OEM expertise.

MAHLE already offers manufacturers of electric vehicles sophisticated drive solutions with maximum performance. MAHLE traction motors are suitable for all applications: for mild and full hybrid vehicles and for vehicles with a range extender, as well as for purely battery-powered electric vehicles or fuel cell vehicles and even two-wheelers. By continuously expanding its activities in the area of power electronics and drives, MAHLE has been preparing for the mobility transformation for some time—and is paving the way for its aftermarket portfolio of tomorrow.

“The demands on workshops are changing and becoming more diverse. We support them by offering a high level of availability, top quality, and all the services and information they need in the workshop,” says Olaf Henning, Corporate Executive Vice President and General Manager MAHLE Aftermarket.

Thermal management for the battery and drive of electric vehicles will be a particularly important part of day-to-day life in the workshops of tomorrow. The thermal cycle of an electric motor differs fundamentally from that of a combustion engine. The air conditioning compressor becomes part of the powertrain, as it is responsible for the cooling of the battery and motor. The importance of efficiency is especially apparent when traveling in winter. While a combustion engine produces ample waste heat for heating the interior, the energy of an electric motor is barely sufficient to warm up the cabin air.

Electric cars do produce waste heat—for example, during battery charging—but significantly less than combustion engines. Dissipating this heat to protect the components, on the one hand, and utilizing it efficiently for air conditioning, on the other, is an important aspect of thermal management. Ultimately, all measures have the same objective: to use the available energy more efficiently in order to increase the cruising range. Thermal management systems of this complexity are new for workshops. For this reason, MAHLE is already working to ensure that repair and maintenance information (RMI), spare parts, diagnostic tools, and service units are available for workshops at the right time. In this way, MAHLE provides specific support for workshops in this new business segment.

About MAHLE

MAHLE is a leading international development partner and supplier to the automotive industry as well as a pioneer for the mobility of the future. The group’s product portfolio addresses all the crucial issues relating to the powertrain and air conditioning technology—both for drives with combustion engines and for e mobility. In 2018, the group generated sales of approximately EUR 12.6 billion with more than 79,000 employees and is represented in over 30 countries with 160 production locations.

About MAHLE Aftermarket

MAHLE Aftermarket, the business unit specializing in spare parts, uses the expertise from the series production of original equipment in its automotive aftermarket product range and supplies trade, workshop, and engine repair partners. The portfolio also includes products developed by MAHLE Service Solutions for workshop equipment as well as comprehensive services and customized training programs.

MAHLE Aftermarket is represented at 25 locations and other sales offices worldwide, with around 1,700 employees. In 2018, the business unit achieved a global sales volume of over EUR 928 million.

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