

NEWS RELEASE

WESTFALIA-Automotive produces the first electric swivelling car trailer hitches in the world.

■ **NESSY will in future be standard equipment on all models of the BMW 5 series.**

Rheda-Wiedenbrück, 23.07.2007. WESTFALIA-Automotive, based in Westphalian Rheda-Wiedenbrück and one of the worldwide leading manufacturers of trailer hitches, has developed the first electric swivelling trailer hitch for the car market. The new electric swivelling system for medium-sized cars will be marketed under the name "NESSY" by WESTFALIA-Automotive, where innovation is written in big letters. NESSY stands for "New Electric Swivelling System". In the past, the Westphalian company produced the comfortable electric swivelling systems as premium products exclusively for the VW Touareg, Audi Q7 and Porsche Cayenne off-road vehicles. As first car manufacturer, BMW will in future equip its 5 series with the new NESSY by WESTFALIA-Automotive.

With NESSY, WESTFALIA-Automotive sets new standards in technology and comfort for trailer hitches on the car market. The easy operation of NESSY is unique and new in the car sector of the market. The system can be extended and retracted within 20 seconds by pressing a button in the boot. When retracted, the system is hidden behind the bumper. "With NESSY, we have developed a high-quality premium product for the car market. Innovation and comfort sets new benchmarks within the car sector. Simultaneously, NESSY once again makes us the technological leader where quality and innovative ideas for trailer hitches is concerned," says Dr. Thomas Benda, the NESSY project manager.

WESTFALIA-Automotive already started developing NESSY in 2004. In extensive tests, more than 300 prototypes were tested to evaluate their suitability for everyday use. Since 2007, the comfortable electric swivelling trailer hitch system for cars is ready for series production.

WESTFALIA-Automotive develops and produces 1000 types of trailer hitches for nearly all automobile makes and is market leader in Germany. With a production capacity of over 800,000 trailer hitches per year, the company supplies all the leading automobile manufacturers in Europe. Since November of last year the French SIARR company belongs to the WESTFALIA-Automotive group. The Group currently employs 700 employees and had a total turnover of more than 123 million euro in the 2005/2006 fiscal year.



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Media contact:

Jeschenko MedienAgentur Köln GmbH

Andreas Stump

Eugen-Langen-Str. 25

Telephone: +49 (0) 221-3099-0

Telefax: +49 (0) 221-3099-200

Internet: www.jeschenko.de

Email: a.stump@jeschenko.de

