

BASF Receives Altair Award For Vehicle Lightweighting

BASF has received the inaugural Altair Enlighten Award for its development of a thermoplastic composite front seat pan.

The award was presented to BASF at the 2013 Center for Automotive Research (CAR) Management Briefing Seminars last week.

"We would like to congratulate BASF for winning the first Altair Enlighten Award," said David Mason, vice president, Global Automotive for Altair.

"Composite materials offer many advantages to carmakers looking for weight savings but bring with them their own engineering and design challenges. BASF has shown that virtual simulation technology can help meet these challenges and deliver lighter, more fuel-efficient vehicles."

The Altair Enlighten Award, the automotive industry's first award program created specifically to acknowledge innovations in vehicle lightweighting, was accepted by BASF's Martin Jung, Ph.D., senior vice president of Global Research for Structural Materials.

"It is truly an honor to be the recipient of the inaugural Enlighten Award for our work in vehicle lightweighting," said Jung. "At BASF, we understand how important lightweighting innovations are to our customers. We work alongside them to create new design processes and material solutions that deliver measurable, cost-effective and sustainable results."

The Enlighten Award recognizes achievement in weight reduction across the automotive industry and spans all materials and components.

BASF's winning innovation was the thermoplastic composite front seat pan, Mason said. Cur-

rently in production on the Opel Astra OPC, this seat pan is the world's first production part made from a thermoplastic laminate with continuous fiber reinforcement and is 45 percent lighter than its predecessor.

"We understand how important lightweighting innovations are to our customers."

**- Martin Jung
BASF**

The 10 finalists, representing product innovations in metal, high-tech fiber components and other composites, were selected by the judging committee, which was chaired by Jay Baron, Ph.D., president and CEO of CAR, and director of CAR's Coalition for Automotive Lightweighting Materials (CALM), and comprising experts from the worldwide automotive community.

The award honors the greatest achievements in weight savings each year. It also aims to inspire interest from industry, engineering, policymakers, educators, students and the public to create further competition for new ideas and to provide incentive to share technological advances.

The award aligns with the goals of the CAR CALM initiative to support the cost-effective integration of mixed materials to achieve significant reductions in vehicle mass.

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