

Media Release

Voith Group

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Energy-efficient Voith Electrical Drive System wins 2023 Baden-Württemberg Environmental Technology Award

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- Second award in a row for Voith
- Electrical drive concept in use in numerous buses worldwide
- Same range with one-fifth less charging current

HEIDENHEIM, GERMANY. The state of Baden-Württemberg has again presented its prestigious Environmental Technology Award to Heidenheim-based Voith. The award in the “Energy Efficiency” category for the innovative drive concept Voith Electrical Drive System (VEDS) reinforces Voith’s claim of being a driver toward sustainable mobility – on road, rail and water.

The jury was impressed by the fact that “with the VEDS, you can cover the same distance with 20 percent less charging current,” explains Dr. Andre Baumann, State Secretary at the Ministry for the Environment, Climate Protection and the Energy Sector.

The high level of efficiency of the VEDS stems from the basic principle of the concept, which not only covers the drive but also the overall system. Voith has always considered itself to be a system supplier and therefore delivers the appropriate periphery and controls, with all components coordinated with one another.

Using software, the drive management unit of the VEDS therefore coordinates the energy management of the vehicle. As a result, the system responds to the respective driving situation with an appropriate frequency variant, so that the total consumption of drive system and peripherals is always in the ideal range.

The result is very low energy consumption of 0.68 kWh/km. This has been verified in an independent test by the non-profit Zemo Partnership in the

United Kingdom. The demonstrated efficiency benefits compared with other electric-only bus platforms consist of up to 20 percent more range with the same charging current. Specifically, this means the same range with one-fifth less charging current.

Already, the battery-electric or fuel-cell powered Voith Electrical Drive System (VEDS) is helping to electrify transport and mobility in numerous urban spaces. For example, the drive solution is a major factor in helping to decarbonize the bus fleet in London. Currently, almost 20 percent of all new e-buses in the British capital are fitted with a VEDS. Many other bus operators around the world are relying on Voith as a partner for their zero-emission strategy.

At present, the drive solution is primarily used in the bus segment. “The system and its efficiencies are helping save power and cut emissions in the public transport sector. Now that the VEDS has become well accepted, we are going to transfer the concept to other applications in the commercial vehicle segment,” says Manuel Calero, Vice President E-Mobility at Voith. Moreover, the modular structure of the VEDS makes it possible to retrofit and integrate the components into existing vehicles.

Since 2009, the Baden-Württemberg Environmental Technology Award has been presented every two years by the Ministry for the Environment, Climate Protection and the Energy Sector. This is the second time in succession that Voith has been among the companies winning an accolade. In 2021, the Group won third place in the category “Energy Efficiency” for the electric Voith Schneider Propeller (eVSP), a sustainable drive solution for ships. The Environmental Technology Award comes with a monetary prize of €100,000, which is divided among four categories, and a special jury award.

About the Voith Group

The Voith Group is a global technology company. With its broad portfolio of systems, products, services and digital applications, Voith sets standards in the markets of energy, paper, raw materials and transport & automotive. Founded in 1867, Voith today has around 21,000 employees and earns 4.9 billion euros in sales. It has locations in more than 60 countries and is one of Europe’s major family-owned companies.

Voith Turbo, a Group Division of Voith, is a specialist for intelligent drive technology, systems and customized services. Voith offers the highest level of efficiency and reliability with its innovative and smart products.

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Customers from highly diverse industries such as oil and gas, energy, mining and mechanical engineering, ship technology, rail and commercial vehicles rely on Voith's advanced technologies and digital solutions.



The e-mobility team at the award ceremony.

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