

EPCOS/SIA Electronics Innovation Award for Valeo and Renault

The Valeo and Renault keyless entry system, now available on all Renault Laguna II models, has received the EPCOS/SIA (Electronic Parts and Components/Société des Ingénieurs Automobile) Award in the 'Life on Board' category. The trophy was presented to Valeo and Renault representatives who attended the SIA's annual reception in Paris, France, last week.

A panel of motor industry journalists, vehicle manufacturers and technical specialists evaluated entries for the EPCOS/SIA annual awards. The EPCOS/SIA Award, jointly conferred on Valeo and Renault, recognizes the high degree of creativity and innovation in the design, manufacture and application of automotive electronic systems in current production.

Thanks to a close collaboration between Renault and Valeo, the Renault Laguna II is the first mass production application of a vehicle access system developed through a partnership between Valeo and a vehicle manufacturer.

Thierry Morin, Chairman of Valeo's Management Board, who attended the award ceremony, said, "I am honored to receive this prestigious award since it is a tremendous recognition for the efforts of all Valeo employees who contributed to this successful partnership with Renault. The creativity and inspiration of the engineering teams of both Valeo and Renault are a major strength which enables us to deliver integrated electronics solutions to meet demanding customer needs."

"I am pleased to accept this award for the keyless entry system on the Renault Laguna II model. I wish to thank the team members from Renault and Valeo who contributed to its launch and to the successful outcome of this project," said Philippe Louvel, Project Leader for the Keyless Vehicle, Renault.

The Valeo and Renault keyless entry system uses a credit card sized 'personal smart card' with a card reader slot and an engine start button integrated into the vehicle dashboard.

"Marketing studies have shown that many drivers prefer easy and quick entry into their car without having to fumble for keys which is considered annoying and time wasting. The answer to these demands is the award-winning keyless entry system. All the driver needs to carry is a smart card which can be placed among other credit cards. This means you always know where it is," said Martin Haub, Group Vice President, Research & Development and Product Marketing.

The keyless entry system has important driver benefits over conventional key fob operated systems:

Comfort and convenience

Upon seizing the door handle, the driver who is carrying the personal smart card fitted with a transceiver, is sensed by the vehicle which immediately unlocks. Every door handle is equipped with a built-in sensor which initiates the driver recognition process and unlocks the doors. Simultaneously, pre-programmed driver comfort features such as rear view mirror settings and seat positions are activated. The driver then simply inserts the 'personal smart card' into the

card reader slot in the dashboard to de-activate the engine immobilizer and steering lock and presses an adjacent button to start the ignition. The process of entering and starting the vehicle is quick and convenient and the experience of fumbling with an ignition key and the need to turn the steering wheel to release the steering lock is now consigned to history.

Safety and security

Thanks to the keyless entry system, it is also easier to access the tailgate which opens without having to find a key first. A push button activates automatic opening which means any bags can be quickly off-loaded. Faster vehicle entry is particularly advantageous in poorly lit areas where security is a consideration.

The full keyless entry system, using radio frequency, electronics and sensing, automatically ensures that all doors are locked when the driver leaves the vehicle, thus offering the driver additional security as well as 'peace of mind'.

In addition to the keyless entry system for the Renault Laguna II, Valeo also supplies clutch systems, lighting and windscreen wiper systems, electrical trunk and rear window latches, lock strikers, park assist sensors and starters and alternators for the vehicle.

The Renault and Valeo keyless entry system will be displayed at the IAA Frankfurt Auto Show in September.

Valeo is an independent industrial group fully focused on the design, production and sale of components, integrated systems and modules for cars and trucks and ranks among the world's top automotive suppliers. The Group has 167 plants, 49 R&D centers, ten distribution centers and employs more than 75,000 people in 24 countries worldwide.