

10.30

Valeo unveils its specific technologies for electric vehicles featured on its Show Car at the Paris Motor Show

Paris, France, September 30, 2010 - Valeo is presenting an electric show car at the Paris Motor Show. This demonstration vehicle showcases a wide range of innovative technologies that increase the autonomy of electric vehicles.

Valeo's ambition is to become the preferred partner of automakers in reducing CO₂ emissions, and the show car demonstrates both the Group's expertise and that of its partners in the area of electric drivetrain and thermal management, as well as in products that reduce the vehicle's energy consumption and weight.

Power electronics, improving efficiency and extending range

The electric motor is controlled by an inverter, a component with considerable impact on performance. The high efficiency of Valeo's inverter helps to extend range by reducing the consumption of the drivetrain. The inverter also shares part of its circuit with the battery charger and the motor, helping to reduce mass and cost.

Thermal management, optimizing energy flows

Valeo's new thermal architecture for electric vehicles has three interacting fluid loops that recover energy where it is lost and deliver it to where it is needed. This global architecture guarantees the reliability of the drivetrain components, passenger comfort and maximum range.

Thermal accumulator: 10% extra range in cold weather

Valeo's new thermal accumulator stores a considerable amount of heat when the battery is charging. This source of heat, independent from the battery, extends range by around 10% in cold weather. Alternatively, Valeo has developed a heat pump system that reduces the electricity requirement for heating and extends range even further.

Optimized air-conditioning compressor

The show car's air conditioning has an electrically driven scroll compressor, which offers high efficiency, low noise and vibrations, and reduced size in order to facilitate its integration into the vehicle.

Thermal management of the battery to deliver maximum energy

The temperature of the lithium-ion battery is controlled by a water loop, which is hot or cold according to the need, and which delivers maximum energy in all circumstances. Valeo also offers alternative solutions, including an air circulation system, a direct cooling system using a refrigerant, and a reversible thermo-electric hot-cold system.



Smart key to communicate with the vehicle

The user has a smart key which displays the battery's charge level up to 500 meters from the car. It can also order the car to activate climate control prior to travel, by turning on the heating or air conditioning while the vehicle is connected to the grid.

Low consumption low beam LEDs

20W low beam LEDs provide equivalent light to 60W halogen bulbs. When used with front and rear LED position lamps, this technology alone increases range at night by at least 2%.

New multifunction control panel

The show car's dashboard has a control panel with a particularly high-quality finish. It stands out both for its style and for the ergonomics of the various user interfaces. In order to meet increasingly exacting demands for quality, the climate control and radio functions have been grouped together, reducing the size of the panel and standardizing all the functions that interface with the driver or passengers.

New safety and driving assistance functions

Valeo has a system that detects pedestrians on the vehicle's trajectory and emits a sound signal targeted at the area in which they are located. In order to do this, the show car has cameras and ultrasonic sensors that ensure this as well as additional functions: automatic docking (automatic cable-free connection), semi-automatic parallel or perpendicular parking, assistance exiting a parallel parking space, automatic switching between high and low beams, BeamAtic® Premium, speed limit sign recognition and lane departure warning.

Revolutionary new wiper system

In place of the traditional nozzle spray system, the AquaBlade® wiper uses a tube inside the blade to spread the washer fluid evenly across the windshield. Unlike the spray system, therefore, it preserves visibility during wiping, and halves the amount of washer fluid required. Valeo has also developed direct-drive synchronized motors with no linkage between the two wiper blades. These innovations reduce the weight of the system by a total of 3.7 kg.

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10.29

A world first for Valeo's 360Vue[®] system on the new Volkswagen Touareg

Paris, France, September 30, 2010 – Valeo's 360Vue[®] system, which offers total vision around the vehicle, equips the new Volkswagen Touareg.

Four miniature digital cameras (in the front and rear, and on the outside rearview mirrors), linked to an image processing application, allow the system to display a single homogeneous view on a central screen. The processed image gives the driver the impression of seeing the vehicle and its environment from above. Maneuvering in complex situations becomes safe and easy.

The driver may also select other views on the screen: for example, a wide-angle view of the area behind the vehicle is particularly useful when parking. Similarly, viewing the area in front of the vehicle is important at a blind junction or parking slot exit.

The system is also linked to ultrasonic sensors, which enable precise distances to be displayed as lines on the image. Other lines become dynamic to illustrate the trajectory as soon as the driver begins the maneuver. Diagonal parking is made far simpler, allowing the driver to park in the narrowest of spaces.

Valeo has confirmed its position as world leader for multi-camera viewing systems, which are already in production on a number of models by four automakers. By the end of 2011, 17 models from five different brands will be equipped with multi-camera viewing solutions.

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10.28

Valeo-Ichikoh Alliance equips the Nissan Leaf Electric Vehicle with LED low beam headlamps

Paris, France, September 30, 2010 – Valeo and its partner in Japan, Ichikoh, have developed a new generation of LED front lighting systems, unveiled as a world premier on the Nissan Leaf Electric Vehicle.

The Alliance's engineers have designed a cost-effective LED-based headlamp, combining enhanced illumination close to daylight and distinctive style. While the Nissan Leaf LED headlamp is cost and energy efficient, it delivers a high level of performance, with brighter light color on the road and a longer life span.

The optical system provides multiple innovative front lighting solutions: the collector and reflector are combined as a single thermoplastic part with no lens, giving it a distinctive look a conventional headlamp.

With a flux on the road of more than 500 lumens, the wide beam offers a good range and high homogeneity. Thanks to its color temperature of 5500K, it has been ranked at the level of HID lamps during night test comparisons with different mass production headlamps.

This low beam module is the first on the market with efficient power consumption as low as 50W per vehicle using only 2 LED per headlamp. The 2 LED-based design saves 30% more energy than the best 3 LED-based headlamps currently on the market (70W).

Compared with other light sources, it saves up to 49% with Xenon systems (90W) and 62% with Halogen (130W). The benefit is also very high for conventional internal combustion engine vehicles with an average CO₂ saving of 1g per km.

Valeo and its partner Ichikoh are positioned as a major player on the booming LED front lighting market with the headlamps for the Nissan Leaf, the first mass market 100% Electric Vehicle. Valeo and Ichikoh are preparing for the future, working together on further innovative LED front lighting solutions.

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10.27

First launch for Valeo's BeamAtic® Premium lighting system with Volkswagen

Paris, France, September 30, 2010 – Valeo equips the new Volkswagen Phaeton with its revolutionary BeamAtic® Premium adaptive lighting system.

While high beam headlamps light the road more effectively than low beams, they must give way to low beams quickly as soon as another vehicle approaches. With the new BeamAtic® Premium automatic adaptive lighting system, maximum light is maintained everywhere except in the zone where the other vehicle is located. Visibility is therefore comparable to high beam, and other drivers are not dazzled. Automatic switching between high and low beams also improves driving comfort and safety.

In high beam mode, each of the headlamps generates a cone of light which lights up the entire road. When passing or overtaking another vehicle, the latter is detected and located by a camera equipped with powerful image processing software. The system then uses a mobile shield to block out the part of the beam occupied by the other vehicle, and tracks its trajectory. The vehicle passed or overtaken is therefore no longer in the light, and its driver is never dazzled, because from their viewpoint the BeamAtic® Premium lights look just like low beams. For the user, however, the road appears to be fully illuminated, as it would be with high beam headlamps.

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10.26

A world first for Valeo's Park4U[®] on the new Volkswagen Touran and Sharan

Paris, France, September 30, 2010 – The new Volkswagen Touran and Sharan are to be equipped with the latest generation of Valeo's semi-automatic parking system, Park4U[®].

Park4U[®] uses ultrasonic sensors located in the front and rear bumpers to precisely calculate the length of the parking slot available, and automatically maneuvers the car into the slot.

The new version needs only 40 cm of clearance at either end of the vehicle to be able to park, a reduction of 43% compared to the first generation, made possible by a more sophisticated geometric calculation. In addition, steering assistance no longer ends when the car first goes into reverse, but continues to help the driver until the vehicle is parked, however many maneuvers may be necessary for a short parking slot.

Park4U[®] also allows the motorist to exit a parking space, even if it is very tight (25 cm at either end). It assesses the space available in front and behind the vehicle, and calculates the most appropriate maneuver. The driver remains in control of the speed, but the system takes control of steering, as when parking. The system also detects the best moment to exit the parking space, and automatically deactivates to let the driver merge into the traffic.

After the worldwide success of the first version of Park4U[®], Valeo has taken into account end users' additional requests, and the new generation also offers drivers assistance in reversing into a space that is perpendicular to the road, on a bend or in a narrow street. Last but not least the parking trajectory has become so flexible that it can adapt to nearly all individual situations, for even more natural parking.

To date, 22 models from seven different brands have been equipped with Valeo's Park4U[®]. By the end of 2011, these figures will rise to 38 models and 12 brands. Valeo is confirming its leadership in parking and manoeuvring solutions.

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10.25

Valeo's new multifunction faceplate and hands-free access and start system to equip the future Peugeot 508

Paris, France, September 30, 2010 – Valeo will equip the future Peugeot 508 with its new multifunction faceplate with high-level finish, and with its hands-free access and start system that allows the driver to open and start the vehicle without getting the key out.

Multifonction faceplate

Valeo's new multifunction faceplate has been chosen for the contribution it makes to the high-level finish required on the 508.

The faceplate's central positioning makes it a decisive factor in the initial perception of the quality of a vehicle's interior. It stands out both for the fluidity of its style that eliminates visible joints and for the ergonomics of the various human-machine interfaces.

The faceplate's design incorporates the air-conditioning and radio functions to offer the very highest quality of look and feel at a competitive price. This function integration corresponds precisely to the automaker's expectations, and puts the product among the very best on the market.

In contrast to the constraints associated with standard models, the compact size of the faceplate also offers automakers considerable freedom to express their vehicle's identity. In polished black with chrome finish and optimized touch-control, this top-end product reflects the current style trends on the market. Valeo also continues to offer innovative solutions, including tactile surfaces, smart display systems and proximity detection, in order to satisfy end users' growing demand for advanced controls and automakers' needs to express a strong brand image.

Hands-free access and start system

This access and start solution offers the driver greater freedom. Just placing the key in a pocket or bag is sufficient to open the door: the driver simply pulls the handle to unlock the vehicle and the door opens. To start the vehicle or shut off the engine, the driver just presses the start button on the dashboard or presses the brake pedal.

A simple stroke of the hand over a specific part of one of the door handles is enough to lock the vehicle.



Practical, modern and secure, this is a user-friendly solution that is particularly helpful for drivers with their hands full.

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10.24

Valeo full-LED headlamps on two concept cars

Paris, France, September 30, 2010 – Valeo is fitting full-LED headlights the ZB10 RENAULT and SEAT IB^E concept cars exclusively presented at the Paris Motor Show.

With their low energy consumption, equivalent to 85% of traditional headlamps, LEDs are perfect for electric vehicles because they increase their range, and they reduce fuel consumption by around 0.2 litres per 100 km for internal combustion engine vehicles.

In addition to low consumption, LEDs offer many other benefits, such as a long lifespan exceeding that of the vehicle, the compactness of the associated optical systems, and the freedom they offer designers in terms of customized vehicle styling, as illustrated by these two concept cars.

The use of new-generation LEDs, coupled with a high-efficiency optical system, produces light that is close to natural daylight, thereby increasing safety.

These new lighting systems are the fruit of a close partnership between Valeo and these automakers, and they demonstrate how the technology can be adapted to convey the sort of powerful, distinctive image sought by brand designers.

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10.23

Valeo partners Modulowatt on its project for automatic docking to a battery charging station

Paris, France, September 30, 2010 - Modulowatt Ingénierie, in association with eight partners, including Valeo, is presenting its electronically guided mechanical coupling demonstrator ("AMARE") at the Paris Motor Show. This smart system makes it possible to connect an electric vehicle to an automated charging station.

Automatic docking is handled by an automated arm which connects the vehicle to the charging station. The system however, requires the vehicle to be accurately positioned in front of the arm. To that end, Valeo provides the detection system which localizes the charging zones, either directly on a station, or behind vehicles already coupled to the stations.

The docking maneuver is achieved thanks to the front camera positioned behind the central rearview mirror. As the vehicle approaches, the camera surveys the area and the target, making it possible to define the vehicle's position in relation to the precise docking point, which is the parameter required for automatically maneuvering the vehicle. Dockin is therefore facilitated, enabling an automatic connection so the battery can be recharged.

A full-scale demonstration of this system is presented on the Modulowatt stand, Hall 2/1, Aisle D, Stand n°429.

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10.22

Valeo and Orange present an innovative concept for easy vehicle sharing

Paris, France, September 30, 2010 – Valeo and Orange are proposing an innovative concept for sharing vehicles between several drivers, either between individuals or within a corporate fleet of vehicles.

This solution, based on NFC (Near Field Communication) no-contact technology, makes it possible to exchange data at very short distance using an NFC cellphone, but also from a web and mobile community application.

The vehicle sharing process is simple. On a dedicated site, community members reserve the period of time during which they wish to use the car. Once the owner has validated this period of time, they receive a temporary, non-transferable key on their cellphone, via the Orange platform.

All they then have to do is place their cellphone close to the car door, then the dashboard, both equipped by Valeo with NFC readers, in order to open and then start the vehicle.

This solution is designed for automakers and service providers in the automobile sector.

It is a totally secure solution enabling the lending or borrowing of a key at a distance, avoiding any risk of losing keys thanks to virtual key transfer, and controlling and restricting the use of keys. In addition, management of vehicle loaning from the car-sharing site is optimized, the cost of use and maintenance can be shared, and the fleet's carbon footprint is considerably reduced.

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