

# PRESS RELEASE

## **Dürr wins German innovation award with EcoPaintJet**

- **First prize in the ‘Large Enterprises’ category**
- **Intelligent system offering 100% paint usage**
- **Efficient product customization in automotive production**

**Bietigheim-Bissingen, April 6, 2020 – Dürr Systems AG has been presented with the German innovation award ‘Der Deutsche Innovationspreis’ in the ‘Large Enterprises’ category for its EcoPaintJet robot paint system. EcoPaintJet is a groundbreaking innovation for the razor-sharp painting of cars and other products. The benefits of the process also impressed the jury of the German Innovation award: 100% of the paint lands on the surface without any waste, with two-tone painting also made easy – and all this in a faster, more energy-efficient and resource-friendly way than before.**

The **EcoPaintJet** combines know-how and high-tech components from the fields of paint application, robotics and software. Its core element is an innovative applicator mounted on a robot. Unlike a conventional rotating atomizer, it applies paint using an intricate nozzle plate. This has around 50 hardly visible holes with a diameter of approx. one tenth of a millimeter. The paint is applied through these holes in parallel jets from a distance of 30 millimeters – similar to an ink-jet printer. Prior to this, a measuring system measures the surface using a camera. Based on the measuring data, a software program calculates the paint paths along which the applicator hovers over the surface. The speed and tilt angle of the applicator are controlled such that the paint is applied evenly at all times. The contours of the surface are also taken into account, which is important when painting car roofs, for example.

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The innovation makes product customization in automotive production significantly easier. If requested, it is possible, for instance, to apply decorative strips or contrasting colors to the car body roof fully automatically. “The **EcoPaintJet** enables us to support automakers in an important trend: An increasing number of car buyers want a customized vehicle. Our innovation offers completely new possibilities here – cost-efficient and fully integrated into series production”, says Dr. Lars Friedrich, member of the Dürr Systems AG Board of Management and CEO of the Application Technology division.

The **EcoPaintJet** does not generate any overspray since the paint never misses its target and only lands on the intended surfaces. This is why the rest of the car body no longer has to be masked using film when a second paint color is applied. The **EcoPaintJet** only needs 120 seconds to paint a car roof. Previously, the application and removal of the masking film alone took 50 minutes. In addition, around 15 square meters of masking film is now saved per car body. Further benefits include improved capacity utilization in paint shops and energy savings of up to 25% during the paint drying process.

The **EcoPaintJet** is not only suitable for car bodies, but also for products where paint application has so far been highly labor-intensive. The range extends from wheels, furniture and two-wheeled vehicles through to cardboard packaging, garage doors and decorations for aircrafts and railway wagons.

The ‘Der Deutsche Innovationspreis’ award is one of the most renowned awards for innovations ‘made in Germany’ and is presented by Accenture, EnBW and the business magazine WirtschaftsWoche. It goes to enterprises that change business and markets with their innovative strength.

Pictures for this press release can be found [here](#).

*The Dürr Group is one of the world's leading mechanical and plant engineering firms with extensive expertise in automation and digitalization/Industry 4.0. Its products, systems and services enable highly efficient manufacturing processes in different industries. The Dürr Group supplies sectors like the automotive industry, mechanical engineering, chemical, pharmaceutical and woodworking industries. It generated*

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sales of € 3.92 billion in 2019. The company has around 16,500 employees and 112 business locations in 34 countries. The Group operates in the market with the brands Dürr, Schenck and HOMAG and with five divisions:

- **Paint and Final Assembly Systems:** paint shops as well as final assembly, testing and filling technology for the automotive industry
- **Application Technology:** robot technologies for the automated application of paint, sealants and adhesives
- **Clean Technology Systems:** air pollution control, noise abatement systems and coating systems for battery electrodes
- **Measuring and Process Systems:** balancing equipment and diagnostic technology
- **Woodworking Machinery and Systems:** machinery and equipment for the woodworking industry

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