



Media information
10. April 2014

BMW ConnectedDrive. BMW Night Vision with early detection of animals using Dynamic Light Spot.

BMW Night Vision, a driver assistance system from BMW ConnectedDrive, plays a major role in preventing accidents during nighttime driving. Continuously improved since its introduction in 2005, the system is now in its third generation complete with early pedestrian recognition capability, and provides a tremendous boost to safety when driving in the dark. With the assistance of BMW Dynamic Light Spot, the BMW Night Vision system can further reduce the risk of colliding with pedestrians. A marker light detects any vulnerable pedestrians in the vicinity of the carriageway at an early stage, and draws the driver's attention to them by illuminating them with a precisely directed light spot.

Since summer 2013, BMW Night Vision will additionally include a special function for detecting animals outside the headlights' beams. This has meant making the Night Vision system's key component – an infrared thermal imaging camera integrated into the BMW kidney grille – even more powerful. Based on the heat given off, it is already able to determine from a distance of around 100 metres whether an object ahead is a person or an animal. As with the pedestrian recognition function, if the BMW Night Vision control unit's analysis of the situation indicates a collision risk when an animal is detected, a real-time video image appears in the Control Display as a warning. Even if the image does not appear, a symbol showing a deer leaping to the left or right, depending on the situation, is flashed up in the instrument cluster and in the high-resolution Head-Up Display. The Dynamic Light Spots also start to pinpoint the animal by flashing. The initial high flash frequency is designed to direct the driver's attention straight to the source of danger. Animals (e.g. game, cattle or horses) are flashed until they are within range of the normal low-beam headlights. If the driver fails to adapt his driving to the critical situation and there are pedestrians in acute danger, the in-car system will emit an acoustic warning. At the same time the braking system is primed by lowering the Brake Assist system's activation threshold in order to shorten the stopping distance in the event of emergency braking.

The high-performance LED headlights are fitted on the outsides of the front apron in place of the foglamps and can swivel, allowing them to be computer-controlled to illuminate the target object precisely.

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The High Beam Assistant also intervenes if necessary to prevent the Dynamic Light Spots from dazzling other traffic. When they are not activated, the Dynamic Light Spots are dimmed to work together with the high beam or low beam.

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The BMW Group

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In 2013, the BMW Group sold around 1.963 million cars and 115,215 motorcycles worldwide. The profit before tax for the financial year 2012 was euro 7.82 billion on revenues amounting to euro 76.85 billion. At 31 December 2012, the BMW Group had a workforce of 105,876 employees.

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