

Media information

12 January 2026

**BMW Group receives prestigious innovation award for components made from flax fibres.**

+++ BMW Group wins JEC Composites Innovation Award in the "Automotive & Road Transportation - Parts" category +++ Use of flax reduces CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions +++ Collaboration as an innovation driver +++

**Munich.** The BMW Group, together with its partners, has won the globally renowned JEC Composites Innovation Award for series-production exterior components in automobiles. The award was presented at the JEC World Premiere in Paris and recognizes innovations in the development of sustainable materials for the automotive industry.

**Innovation and sustainability in automotive engineering.**

In June of 2025, the BMW Group first announced the use of natural composites made from flax fibre in the design of series-production vehicles. The award in the "Automotive & Road Transportation Parts" category recognizes BMW Group's successful integration of these innovative materials. BMW Group's decision to use natural fibre composites for visible components in series-production vehicles is the most comprehensive application within the industry to date.

**Collaboration enables technological breakthrough.**

The innovative use of fibre composites is the result of years of research and development work and intensive cooperation with partners Bcomp Ltd., Cobra Advanced Composites Co. Ltd. and PPG Wörwag Coatings GmbH & Co. KG. Together, the consortium succeeded in overcoming a major technical challenge: ensuring the natural fibre composites developed would meet the complex requirements for series production required across the structure of the vehicle, including the high quality needed for the roof panel.

**Contribution to CO<sub>2</sub>e reduction and lightweight construction.**

The use of natural fibres helps to reduce the CO<sub>2</sub>e footprint of future vehicle models and has an impact on lightweight construction goals. Material tests show that superior exterior and interior components can be manufactured from these natural fibres.

A concrete example is the use of natural flax fibre composites instead of carbon fibre composites in the roof panels of future models. Replacing carbon roof

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panel with flax fibre panels can achieve a reduction in CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions of around 40% during production plus additional end-of-life considerations.

**Collaboration as a success factor.**

The development of innovative natural flax fibre composites is the result of successful and intensive collaboration with internal and external partners. Cross-departmental and cross-company cooperation has led to new and innovative solutions in materials and manufacturing processes. Through BMW Group's use of interdisciplinary expertise, it has been possible to develop forward-looking products and consistently promote sustainability in automotive engineering.

Dr. Herbert Negele, Head of Materials Development and Lightweight Construction, emphasized the importance of BMW Group's collaborative approach: "At BMW Group, we are committed to thinking and acting responsibly. This premise requires the continuous development of our materials towards sustainability, while continuing to meet the high demands of functionality, lightweight construction and design. The JEC Award confirms our approach and motivates everyone involved in the project to continue along this path."

If you have any questions, please contact:

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**The BMW Group**

With its four brands BMW, MINI, Rolls-Royce and BMW Motorrad, the BMW Group is the world's leading premium manufacturer of automobiles and motorcycles and also provides premium financial and mobility services. The BMW Group production network comprises over 30 production sites worldwide; the company has a global sales network in more than 140 countries.

In 2024, the BMW Group achieved global sales of 2.45 million automobiles and over 210,000 motorcycles. The pre-tax profit for the 2024 financial year amounted to €11.0 billion, with revenues totaling €142.4 billion. As of December 31, 2024, the company employed 159,104 people worldwide.

The success of the BMW Group has always been based on long-term thinking and responsible action. The company set the course for the future at an early stage and consistently makes sustainability and efficient resource management central to its strategic direction, from the supply chain through production to the end of the use phase of all products.

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