For Immediate Release

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BMW South Africa donates educational car to the University of Pretoria.

* Educational display car to boost premium vehicle research
* BMW South Africa continues to promote access to maths, science, engineering and technology

**Pretoria** – The University of Pretoria has welcomed the donation of a BMW 3 Series Sedan educational display car by BMW South Africa. The donation forms part of the company’s commitment to enhancing young people’s access to maths, science, engineering and technology.

The BMW 3 Series Sedan educational display car was built in the pre-production stage of the new BMW 3 Series at Plant Rosslyn, Pretoria, in early 2012. “These vehicles would have been scrapped, however we are proud to be able to donate one of them to form part of the valuable research that the University of Pretoria is currently undertaking in the automotive field,” said Edward Makwana, Group Automotive Communications Manager at BMW South Africa.

The University’s vehicle dynamics group is active in vehicle testing and research on driver assistant systems, suspension and braking efficiency improvement. The donation of the BMW educational car will enable the university to support other research partners in the premium vehicle sector including their German counterparts and other institutions.

The handover of the BMW 3 Series Sedan educational display car was received by University of Pretoria representatives Professor Roelf Sandenbergh, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering: Built Environment and Information Technology (EBIT), Professor Josua Meyer, Head of the School of Engineering and Department of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering, and Professor Schalk Els, Research Group Leader of the Vehicle Dynamics Group (VDG). Several Master’s Degree and PhD undergraduates were also in attendance as they are actively involved in conducting the research and will be benefitting from the donation.

"The Vehicle Dynamics Group is excited to take delivery of our new BMW 3 Series test platform. We will use the platform to develop and test new methods for improving vehicle comfort, efficiency and safety using the latest mechanical, electrical and electronics technologies. This test platform will boost our teaching and research activities, and take it to a higher level of local relevance and international competitiveness," concludes Professor Schalk Els, Research Group Leader of the VDG.

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**For any queries please contact:**

Mr Guy Kilfoil

General Manager: Group Communications & Public Affairs

BMW South Africa (Pty) Ltd

Phone: +27-12-522-2204

Cell: +27-82-583-6262

Email: Guy.Kilfoil@bmw.co.za

Or

Edward Makwana

Manager: Group Automotive Communications

BMW South Africa (Pty) Ltd

Phone: +27-12-522-2227

Cell: +27-83-717-3184

Email: edward.makwana@bmw.co.za

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In 2013, the BMW Group sold approximately 1.963 million cars and 115,215 motorcycles worldwide. The profit before tax for the financial year 2013 was € 7.91 billion on revenues amounting to approximately € 76.06 billion. As of 31 December 2013, the BMW Group had a workforce of 110,351 employees.

The success of the BMW Group has always been based on long-term thinking and responsible action. The company has therefore established ecological and social sustainability throughout the value chain, comprehensive product responsibility and a clear commitment to conserving resources as an integral part of its strategy.

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