



Press release  
12 November 2015

## **EuroCarBody Award 2015 goes to the Carbon Core body of the new BMW 7 Series.**

Unique composite material made of CFRP, aluminium and steel developed as part of BMW EfficientLightweight for the new generation of the luxury sedan receives the world's leading award for innovations in body construction with a new record score.

**Munich.** Automobile experts from all over the world are in agreement: the Carbon Core for the body structure of the new BMW 7 Series is currently the ultimate benchmark. At the 17th Global Car Body Benchmarking Conference, the construction created using an innovative composite consisting of carbon fibre reinforced plastic (CFRP), aluminium and steel received the EuroCarBody Award 2015. The body of the new BMW luxury sedans was given a rating of 41.87 out of 50 possible points - the best score ever to be obtained in this competition. The EuroCarBody Award has been announced at the annual conference of experts every year since 2002 and is regarded as the world's most important award for innovations in car body construction.

The Carbon Core used for the body structure is the central element of the BMW EfficientLightweight Technology that was applied particularly consistently in the development of the sixth generation of the BMW 7 Series. For the first time in a volume-production automobile, a composite of CFRP, aluminium and super high-strength steels was created which increases rigidity and stiffness in the passenger cell while at the same time significantly reducing the vehicle weight. CFRP is applied here in hybrid construction with super high-strength steels for the structural elements. This allows adaptation of the sheet metal parts in the area of the B columns, for example, thereby saving weight.

In designing the body with Carbon Core, expertise was used from the development of BMW i automobiles, whose passenger cells are made entirely of CFRP. The BMW Group has a level of know-how and experience in the industrial application of CFRP which is unique in the automotive sector. With this innovative composite construction, BMW has once again established an innovative use for CFRP in the large-scale serial production of motor vehicles.

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# BMW

## Corporate Communications

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Page 2

In addition, not only is the engine compartment lid of the new BMW 7 Series made of aluminium but also the doors. All in all, these and other BMW EfficientLightweight measures make the luxury sedans of the new BMW 7 Series up to 130 kilograms lighter than their respective predecessor models, despite the fact that they are fitted with a considerably extended range of comfort and safety features. This puts their weight at the level of the third generation of the BMW 7 Series launched in 1994. Consistent lightweight construction enables an almost perfectly balanced 50 : 50 axle load distribution and also allows the centre of gravity to be lowered. This benefits the driving dynamics and ride comfort of the new BMW 7 Series as well as its efficiency.

The EuroCarBody 2015 conference in Bad Nauheim, Hesse, was attended by more than 550 car body construction experts from 24 countries, who discussed innovations and pioneering concepts in the areas of development and production. In addition to specialist talks and discussions, the event mainly focused on selecting the most important new developments in body construction. In its bid for the EuroCarBody Award 2015, the new BMW 7 Series was up against eight other recent innovations from the international automotive markets. In the combined assessment of the jury and auditorium, the Carbon Core body scored particularly well in the disciplines of material concept, development, construction design and customer benefit.

Further information and photos:

<http://www.automotive-circle.com/en/Rueckblick/EuroCarBody-2015>

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Page 3

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### **The BMW Group**

With its three brands BMW, MINI and Rolls-Royce, the BMW Group is the world's leading premium manufacturer of automobiles and motorcycles and also provides premium financial and mobility services. As a global company, the BMW Group operates 30 production and assembly facilities in 14 countries and has a global sales network in more than 140 countries.

In 2014, the BMW Group sold approximately 2.118 million cars and 123,000 motorcycles worldwide. The profit before tax for the financial year 2014 was approximately € 8.71 billion on revenues amounting to € 80.40 billion. As of 31 December 2014, the BMW Group had a workforce of 116,324 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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