



BPW: 15 years ETM Award - employees say THANK YOU

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BPW remains the first choice for transport professionals

- Trailer axles and running gear are key for adding value in transport
- BPW wins the coveted ETM Award for the 15th time in a row
- Ralf Merkelbach: "The newest and most state-of-the-art running gear system on the market"

Wiehl, 23.07.2021 --- Barely any other trailer component has as much impact on the added value per kilometre as the running gear, which is why BPW Bergische Achsen KG has now won the ETM Award for the 15th year in a row. The award is one of the most sought after in the industry and gives transport professionals from the vehicle and logistics industry the chance to have their say. Claiming the top spot has become an annual tradition for the company, as no other provider offers more-advanced technology.

"In the transport and logistics industry, everything revolves around the question of which technology can be used to generate more added value per kilometre. Choosing the right axle and running gear systems is crucial here," comments Ralf Merkelbach, Head of Key Account Management Large Fleets Europe at BPW, "which is why at BPW we invest in innovative technologies more than any other provider and work closely with hauliers in our development work. The result is the most advanced running gear technology on the market, which gives vehicle operators a decisive advantage."

BPW actually uses more than steel and aluminium when constructing axles and running gear – it also uses data. The global player and family-owned company based in Wiehl, North Rhine-Westphalia, has fitted selected trailers with specially developed data collection devices ([Mini Black Box](#)) that accurately record every movement. Whether a trailer is speeding over the potholes of the Silk Road in China, climbing the road to a mountain pass in Eastern Anatolia, driving through the monsoon in India or being subjected to hard braking at a motorway junction in Germany, every physical detail is registered and used to fine-tune the running gear components for maximum sturdiness and efficiency.

The result is a modular component kit where every individual part is based on a 'digital twin' and can even be put together online to create running gear that is precisely tailored to the intended use. The artificial intelligence in the configurator helps the vehicle engineer to choose precisely the right combination. This year, BPW completely rebuilt the successful Airlight II running gear, which is among the top-selling trailer running gear in Europe. This achieved a weight saving of 60 kg for the vehicle operator – and gives the vehicle manufacturer even more flexibility in the design. Ralf Merkelbach says: "The new version of Airlight II proves that we do not rest on our laurels at BPW. By digitising our running gear kit, we have replaced the conventional development cycles with a continuous renewal process. This means that every BPW running gear is always the most up to date and efficient on the market."

Further reading:

You can find out more about the 'Mini Black Box' and how it gathers data for the development of running gear in the BPW online content hub motionist:

<https://motionist.com/en/mini-black-box-a-small-box-with-huge-impact/>

About BPW Bergische Achsen Kommanditgesellschaft

BPW Bergische Achsen KG is the parent company of the BPW Group. With around 1,500 employees, including around 100 trainees, the family-run company has been developing and producing complete running gear systems for truck trailers and semi-trailers at its headquarters in Wiehl since 1898. BPW's technologies include axle systems, brake technology, suspension and bearings. BPW's trailer axles and running gear systems are in use in millions of vehicles around the world. An extensive range of services also provides vehicle manufacturers and vehicle operators with the opportunity to increase economic efficiency in their production and transport processes. www.bpw.de/en

About the BPW Group

The BPW Group researches, develops and manufactures everything needed to ensure that transport keeps moving and is safe, illuminated, intelligent and digitally connected. With its brands [BPW](#), [Ermax](#), [HBN](#), [HESTAL](#) and [idem telematics](#), the company group is a preferred system partner of the commercial vehicle industry around the globe for running gear, brakes, lighting, fasteners and superstructure technology, telematics and other key components for trucks, trailers and buses. The BPW Group offers comprehensive mobility services for transport businesses, ranging from a global service network to spare parts supply and intelligent networking of vehicles, drivers and freight. The owner-operated company group currently employs 7,000 staff in more than 50 countries and achieved consolidated sales of 1.41 billion euros in 2019. www.bpw.de/en

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