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Flat, efficient and scalable: HELLA brings FlatLight technology into series production as daytime running light for the first time

- Lighting concept is successfully transferred from the rear combination lamp to an application in the front area; series production starts in 2025
- FlatLight technology requires only five millimetres of installation space; implementation of daytime running light, direction indicator and position light in only one light element
- Customer project also includes headlamps with new CLA technology; miniaturisation of the light module enables striking, 10 millimetre narrow light signature

HELLA, the automotive supplier operating under the umbrella of the FORVIA Group, has received another major customer order for its innovative FlatLight concept. HELLA will transfer the lighting technology, which was initially designed as a rear combination lamp, to front lighting for the first time. From mid-2025, HELLA will supply an international premium manufacturer; in this context, the HELLA FlatLight is to be integrated into five different vehicle series. The FlatLight technology will celebrate its world premiere as early as 2024, when it will go into series production for the first time as a rear combination rear lamp.

"Our FlatLight technology is primarily about a slim design, the greatest possible energy efficiency as well as superior homogeneity and performance - and not just for rear combination lamps," says Yves Andres, Managing Director Lighting at HELLA. "Rather, with the recently won customer order, we underline that our FlatLight concept can be transferred in a highly scalable manner to a variety of other applications."

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The HELLA FlatLight is based on so-called micro-optics. These are extremely small optics that have a size of less than 15 micrometres and are thus significantly smaller than a grain of salt. On this basis, both the weight of the light module can be decreased and its installation space requirement can be reduced down to five millimetres. In contrast, conventional daytime running lights usually require a depth of around 40 millimetres. At the same time, the FlatLight allows for numerous new possibilities in terms of vehicle design and lighting design. For example, daytime running light, direction indicator and position light can be implemented in just one single light element. The FlatLight technology also achieves a previously unattained homogeneity at the highest possible cost and energy efficiency. This means that the appearance of the daytime running light is particularly uniform while at the same time being highly efficient.

The customer project also includes main headlamps in which HELLA has integrated so-called cylindrical lens arrays (CLA). HELLA has already brought this innovative lighting technology into series production in another customer project. This is also a miniaturisation of the light modules, which enables a particularly flat, distinctive light signature as well as an overall height of the light emission of up to 10 millimetres. They implement low beam and high beam; for the adaptive light functions, for example glare-free high beam and assisting projections, an SSL | HD module is also used.

"The trend towards very slim designs as a central design element continues. This is realised not least by our lighting technologies, which are already the benchmark for the light signatures of the future," says Lighting Managing Director Yves Andres. "Thus, especially in the combination of these technologies lie diverse design possibilities for an individual, harmonious light design, both during the day and at night."

FlatLight, SSL | HD and Cylindrical Lens Arrays will also be showcased at HELLA and Faurecia's joint FORVIA booth (CP3 in Central Plaza) at CES 2023, January 5-8, 2023 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

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ABOUT HELLA

HELLA is a listed, internationally positioned automotive supplier operating under the umbrella brand FORVIA. Within this factual group, HELLA stands for high-performance lighting technology and automotive electronics. At the same time, the company covers a broad service and product portfolio for the spare parts and workshop business as well as for manufacturers of special vehicles with its Business Group Lifecycle Solutions. HELLA has 36,000 employees at more than 125 locations worldwide and generated consolidated sales of € 6.3 billion in the fiscal year 2021/2022.

ABOUT FORVIA

FORVIA comprises the complementary technology and industrial strengths of Faurecia and HELLA. With over 300 industrial sites and 77 R&D centers, 150,000 people, including more than 35,000 engineers across 40+ countries, FORVIA provides a unique and comprehensive approach to the automotive challenges of today and tomorrow. Composed of 6 business groups with 24 product lines, and a strong IP portfolio of over 14,000 patents, FORVIA is focused on becoming the preferred innovation and integration partner for OEMS worldwide. FORVIA aims to be a change maker committed to foreseeing and making the mobility transformation happen. www.forvia.com