

Nanterre (France), June 17, 2014

## **Faurecia first to introduce TDI low-VOC foam that nearly eliminates harmful emissions from automotive seats**

[Faurecia](#), the world's sixth-largest automotive supplier, today announced that it has developed a new type of TDI<sup>1</sup> foam pad for vehicle seats that eliminates 99 percent of volatile amines emissions which concur to a reduction of global VOC<sup>2</sup> emissions by 60%, while improving seating comfort, a breakthrough solution in the current automotive seating industry.

Volatile amines can have a harmful impact on the health of passengers, produce an intensely unpleasant odor inside the vehicle and cause windshield fogging, but these issues disappear with the new foam developed by Faurecia Automotive Seating in collaboration with Dow Automotive Systems.

The Faurecia volatile amines-free foam pads, employing Dow's SPECFLEX™ Activ polyurethane solution, will begin to be used soon by French automakers. Other premium automakers in Europe are also currently investigating the new Faurecia foam.

While the foam's initial use plan is in rear backrests, it is appropriate for use in backrests and cushions in rear and front seats alike.

### **Eliminating amine catalysts**

Automakers use either two types of polyurethane foam to provide padding for seats: MDI<sup>3</sup> or TDI, each of which provides different levels of density to meet the varying specifications of vehicle models. Until now, these products have incorporated amines as catalysts to promote gelling and blowing reactions that create polyurethane foam. Amines, however, are one of the major sources of VOCs and also can affect the mechanical properties of seating pads. The new foams from Faurecia do not require any external amines catalysts.

Faurecia submitted its new foams to an independent lab for testing, where results demonstrated that the new material's composition eliminated as much as 99 percent of volatile amines emissions, compared with previous TDI pads. The Faurecia low-VOC TDI foam pads thus become the world's first to achieve a nearly total elimination of volatile amines emissions.

### **Improved seating comfort**

In addition to providing a healthier environment inside the vehicle, the Faurecia volatile amines-free foam improves passengers comfort while the vehicle is in motion. Compared to current TDI foams, the new Faurecia pad is more responsive, returning quickly to its original shape after being subjected to deformation pressures. The foam supports the occupant's body comfortably, responding especially well when it is needed for support.

The new foam also performs better than previous TDI products with regards to vibrations that originate from tires, vehicle structures and road conditions, with a lower resonance frequency that makes vibrations less perceptible to occupants. Additionally, it is more durable than other pads, especially in humid environments.

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<sup>1</sup> TDI: toluene diisocyanate

<sup>2</sup> VOC: volatile organic compounds

<sup>3</sup> MDI: methylene diphenyl diisocyanate

“Our volatile amines-free TDI foam pad is the first of its kind, eliminating external catalysts and their emissions from the production process while improving mechanical properties of the seat” said Marc Poncelet, Director R&D Foam & Accessories, Faurecia Automotive Seating. “This breakthrough material which we have created in cooperation with Dow further demonstrates Faurecia’s standing as a full-service technology provider, developing materials, components and systems to improve vehicles and their environmental footprint.”

Faurecia will start to produce its volatile amines-free TDI foam pad in Magny-Vernois, France. Faurecia anticipates that the new foam will help automakers meet impending restrictions on global VOC emissions in Asia: in particular in China, Japan and South Korea as well as help to forestall interior emissions in vehicles all across the globe. Faurecia is ready today to make its new foam product available in the current generation of vehicles for seating applications that require a foam density between 45 and 55 kilograms per cubic meter.

With operations at 76 sites in 25 countries, Faurecia Automotive Seating is the world leader in the manufacture of high-performance seating mechanisms, global-standard frames and advanced mechatronics systems. The company ranks in the top three for production of complete seats and is renowned for its seating innovations that provide smart comfort solutions.

**About Faurecia**

Faurecia is the world’s sixth-largest automotive equipment supplier with four key Business Groups: Automotive Seating, Emissions Control Technologies, Interior Systems and Automotive Exteriors. In 2013, the Group posted total sales of €18 billion. At December 31, 2013, Faurecia employed 97,500 people in 34 countries at 320 sites, including 30 R&D centers. Faurecia is listed on the NYSE Euronext Paris stock exchange and trades in the U.S. over-the-counter (OTC) market. For more information, visit: [www.faurecia.fr](http://www.faurecia.fr)

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