

Nanterre (France), September 29, 2016

## Faurecia invites partners of its open innovation system to demonstrate their technology at Paris Auto Show

The automotive industry is going through a technological revolution driven by the need for increased environmental protection as well as the trends towards connectivity and autonomous driving. In this context, Faurecia is accelerating its technology development for **Sustainable Mobility** and the **Cockpit of the Future**. To achieve this, the Group is expanding its technology expertise through renewed investment combined with an enlarged innovation ecosystem that encompasses academic research establishments, industrial partnerships and investments in **startups** through the recently launched investment vehicle Faurecia Ventures.

Several examples of successful partnerships and investment are demonstrated on the Faurecia stand at the 2016 Paris Motor Show, such as **FORCE**<sup>1</sup> for accelerating mass market carbon fiber composites, **Amminex** for the development of more efficient NOx emissions reduction and **four startups** who have benefited from a partnership or investment from Faurecia Ventures.

### Scouting and investing in startups: Faurecia Ventures already made first investments

Faurecia operates a global **scouting network** searching for emerging technology-focused companies in hi-tech communities like California's Silicon Valley, Boston, New York, Toronto, Paris, Munich, Berlin, Scandinavia, Shanghai, Seoul, Singapore and Tokyo and, most recently, Tel Aviv. Faurecia intends to scout more than 1,000 startup operations per year to find the world's best in technology.

When Faurecia finds a technology developer with which it would like to collaborate, it establishes a partnership agreement or may invest in the startup through **Faurecia Ventures**, an investment vehicle with initial resources of 50 million euros. Its mission is to complement Faurecia's innovation strategy by identifying, incubating, and investing in early stage innovations to create long term value and strategic advantage for Faurecia. Focused investment themes cover both the Cockpit of the Future (predictive cabin, user experience and interior atmosphere) and Sustainable Mobility (energy recovery, lightweight materials and alternative powertrains). The ambition is to make Faurecia the partner of choice for innovators and new technology providers.

Many of the Faurecia technologies exhibited at the 2016 Paris Motor Show have been developed in collaboration with startups and the Group invited **four particularly promising partners** to demonstrate their technology on the stand:

- When Faurecia was looking for seating sensors to integrate into seats that would be visually unobtrusive and would not interfere with the comfort of drivers and passengers, it identified **Hoana**; a US based medical device company that developed contactless sensors placed in hospital beds to measure patient vital signs. Faurecia integrated this technology into its Active Wellness 2.0 seat, adapting Hoana sensors to an automotive-grade system. Hoana is one of the first startups to benefit from financial support from Faurecia.
- One of the main characteristics of the Cockpit of the Future is its ability to anticipate the needs of the cabin occupants. When Faurecia started developing its Active Wellness™ 2.0 solution, the first connected seat to anticipate driver comfort and safety in all driving situations, it identified **CloudMade**. CloudMade is a pioneer in the use of artificial intelligence in cars, making the next generation of driving experiences more personal and intuitive. For example, CloudMade is matching the Active Wellness 2.0 seat sensors and

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<sup>1</sup> FORCE: a French research project aimed at developing low-cost carbon fiber for automotive applications.

actuators to the external conditions of the car or to the automation of the driving function to enhance the comfort and improve the awareness of the driver in key automated driving situations. CloudMade, headquartered in Menlo Park (California), is also using the Active Wellness seat sensors to obtain occupant status and activity information to enrich its many predictive models as a result of its partnership with Faurecia.

- **Canatu**, headquartered in Helsinki with almost 40 employees, partnered with Faurecia to create the ability to make all displays & surfaces tactile, whatever their size and shape. Canatu's Carbon NanoBud® 3D formable, stretchable and flexible transparent conductive films for touch surfaces deliver better performance than standard indium tin oxide (ITO) material in term of transparency, contrast and flexibility. Canatu's technology allows more efficient integration of displays into plastic and glass surfaces while enhancing touch capabilities. With Canatu, Faurecia is exploring innovative technologies that enable smart surfaces by fusing plastics and electronics to create a simple, intuitive and empathetic occupant experience. Canatu was among the first companies to receive funding from Faurecia Ventures.
- As part of its strategy of rapidly accelerating its composite offer into structural and non-structural parts, Faurecia is considering development of a lightweight composite hydrogen tank for vehicles powered by fuel cells. It has partnered with **Ad-Venta**, a small French engineering company that has invented a specific valve to transform the 700 bars of pressure in the tank to under 10 bars for delivery to the fuel cell. Previously, this pressure reduction required a two-stage process, but the Ad-Venta valve achieves it in just one step, resulting in a simple and more compact product.

#### Faurecia's open innovation system in figures:

- 30 research and development centers employing 6 000 engineers
- 350 experts in such fields as materials, metal engineering and manufacturing technologies
- 72 co-innovation projects with automakers
- 489 patents filed in 2015
- 74 projects and six patents for co-innovation with universities around the world
- Five university chairs
- 50 million euros to invest in startups through Faurecia Ventures
- Partnerships with more than half a dozen accelerators and incubators around the world.

#### **About Faurecia**

Faurecia is one of the world's largest automotive equipment suppliers with global leadership positions in three activities: Automotive Seating, Interior Systems and Emissions Control Technologies. Its strong technology offer provides automakers with solutions for the cockpit of the future and sustainable mobility. In 2015, the Group posted total sales of €20.7 billion and employed 103,000 people in 34 countries at 330 sites and 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.com](http://www.faurecia.com)

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