

Limits of Thought

Dear Reader,

Who would have thought, just a few years ago, that the world's most modern diesel engines would be built for the USA of all places? For the country where many filling stations don't even have a pump for diesel fuel on the passenger car section of the forecourt?

In this issue, we are presenting concepts with which Daimler and Volkswagen will comply with the strictest emissions standards in the world. The Tier 2 Bin 5 standard, originally conceived as something of a protectionist measure to keep diesel engines out of the market, has now resulted in the world's cleanest diesel engines being developed for the US market – and, at a later date, they will also be available in Europe. It is no coincidence that German car makers are the first to overcome the registration hurdles in all US states. After all, in Germany the diesel engine has been continuously further developed and refined to offer superior performance.

But this example also shows just how much we are constrained by the limits of our own thoughts. There are always good reasons why a particular technology does not become established: too expensive, too unreliable, not feasible in mass production, and so on. And every innovation is faced with its sceptics. But if Rudolf

Diesel had had doubts about his invention, he would never have applied for his ground-breaking patent – and would instead have dedicated his creative energy to optimising the steam engine. So let us face the world with an open mind and a healthy curiosity. Is the principle of cogeneration (combined heat and power, CHP), as presented by Professor Freymann on page 20, really too heavy and too expensive for passenger cars, as critics maintain? Of course, not every good idea is an instant success. But those who limit their thoughts because they are afraid of change should not be surprised when they are overtaken by their competitors. Let us work at building tomorrow's world – and MTZ will be there to support you.

And to make this support even stronger, the editorial team now has a new member: as of this issue, Richard Backhaus, one of the industry's most renowned specialists, will be MTZ's new Chief Correspondent.



Johannes Winterhagen
Editor-in-Chief

Johannes Winterhagen
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