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IAA Commercial Vehicles: AKASOL develops battery system for trailer axle from SAF-HOLLAND

- SAF-HOLLAND has integrated high-performance battery systems into an experimental refrigerated semitrailer, to prevent restrictions on the delivery and unloading of goods in inner-city zones
- The high-performance battery system will be fed with braking energy for low-noise, diesel motor-free operation of cooling units

Commercial vehicles must nowadays comply with increasingly strict environmental regulations. One example is refrigerated vehicles, which may only deliver goods if their cooling units operate silently, instead of being supplied with energy by a noisy diesel generator. As part of a forward-thinking European project, the globally operating commercial vehicle supplier SAF-HOLLAND S.A. has integrated a high-performance battery system from AKASOL into an experimental vehicle with the electrified SAF TRAKr trailer axle. The Li-ion batteries are fed with braking energy through the truck's journey.

The Li-ion battery system from AKASOL, which SAF-HOLLAND selected for the project – an experimental cooling trailer with electrified SAF TRAKr trailer axle –, is based on the robust, established AKASYSTEM 16 AKM system. It has a capacity of 32.6 kilowatt hours, and its compact dimensions (750 mm x 216 mm x 1546 mm) make it perfectly suited to a cooling trailer. Due to its innovative liquid cooling, the stated life expectancy of the battery system is significantly higher than that of comparable solutions available on the market.

The electrified SAF TRAKr trailer axle transforms the kinetic energy, created by the vehicle braking, into electric energy through an electric motor, which works as a generator (a process called recuperation). Then the power electronics convert this into direct current power, which is stored in the battery. The lifetime of the cooling unit's diesel generator can be lengthened through the efficient use of the electric motor and battery system.

„For us, as one of the leading producers of commercial vehicle battery systems, the globally operating specialist SAF-HOLLAND is naturally a client of great strategic importance,“ says Sabine Neff, Key Account Manager at AKASOL AG. „The market for electrified trailer axles and recuperation batteries for refrigerated semitrailers, and also for other use cases, is large.“

The electrified SAF TRAKr trailer axle is being presented by SAF-HOLLAND at the IAA Commercial Vehicles 2018 in Hannover.

Pictures are available here: http://bit.ly/Akasol_Press_Kit

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About AKASOL

AKASOL is a leading European manufacturer of lithium-ion battery systems that are market ready to deliver safe, reliable and compliant power at scale for global electric transport. With nearly 30 years of German engineering, testing and manufacturing experience, AKASOL delivers safe battery systems for major players in the commercial transport sector. Current clients include Daimler EvoBus, VDL Bus & Coach, Alexander Dennis, Alstom, Bombardier and Bucher Municipal.

In 2017, AKASOL has opened a new battery systems facility in Langen with an annual capacity of 300 MWh. To AKASOL's knowledge, this is Europe's largest production plant for commercial vehicle lithium-ion battery systems, currently capable of producing high-performance battery systems for up to 1,500 fully electric buses or up to 6,000 commercial vehicles per year, depending on battery size. The facility is planned to be expanded to 600 MWh by 2020.

Since June 2018 AKASOL is listed on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange. Its successful stock market launch has made considerable capital available to support the continued growth of the company, in particular expansion of their production capacity in Germany and the USA, as well as assuring technology leadership for high-performance lithium-ion battery systems in the future through numerous new developments and further development of current technology.

The Darmstadt based company's executive board is led by Sven Schulz (CEO) and Dr Curt Philipp Lorber (CFO). Co-founders are Felix von Borck, Dr Björn Eberleh and Stephen Raiser.

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