



Bosch in Vietnam: Opening of 30-million euro hi-tech facility for automotive pushbelt manufacturing

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- „ Hi-tech manufacturing plant in Southeast Asia for the production of pushbelts for Continuously Variable Transmission
- „ By 2015, total investment estimated of some 55 million euros and expected production volume of 2.3 million units
- „ Plans to double production floor space by mid 2012
- „ 800 associates to be employed by 2015

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, 14 April 2011 – The Bosch Group, a leading global supplier of innovative technologies and services, today marked the official opening of a high-tech facility for the production of pushbelts used for Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT) in automobiles.

Situated at Long Thanh Industrial Zone, Dong Nai Province, the plant is part of the Bosch Group's Gasoline Systems division and spans over a land area of 160,000 square meters. It will produce up to 1.6 million pushbelts in its first year, which can be fitted into vehicles ranging from sub-compact cars to sports utility vehicles with diesel, gasoline or hybrid engines.

Dr Rolf Bulander, President of the Bosch Group's Gasoline Systems division, commented on the opening, "With the majority of our customers for CVT technology located in Asia, we expect our production volume in the new facility to rise to 2.3 million units by 2015 to support the growth of the automobile industry, in particular for the Japanese and Chinese automotive markets."

He added, "To meet the buoyant increased demand of our customers, plans are underway to build an extension building to the current facility, which will double the production floor space. This will also enable us to increase our production depth to build our own components for pushbelt assembly. Construction work on the extension wing is expected to commence in July 2011 and scheduled for completion by mid 2012."

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Developing local talent for high end specialized production

With some 200 associates, the plant is currently the first hi-tech CVT pushbelt production site for Bosch in Southeast Asia, and the second of its kind for Bosch worldwide after Tilburg in the Netherlands. This demonstrates Bosch's commitment to building up its operations in Vietnam.

"With Vietnam's favorable regulations for foreign investors, it became attractive for Bosch to set up our manufacturing plant here. To date, we have invested some 30 million euros into the plant. We project to invest a total of some 55 million euros and employ 800 associates by 2015", said Martin Hayes, President and Managing Director of Robert Bosch (South East Asia) Pte Ltd.

Vo Quang-Hue, Managing Director of Robert Bosch Vietnam Co., Ltd said, "As the manufacturing of these CVT pushbelts involve state-of-the-art, specialized production, we have hired local Vietnamese talents to join our operations and sent them to Europe for several months of training. As a multinational company, Bosch has always adopted a local-for-local strategy to develop the talent of its local associates. Vietnam is no exception".

About Bosch's CVT technology

On Bosch's enhanced technological innovations in its CVT technology, Reinhard Kink, Plant Manager, said, "CVT technology is well known to enable automobile engines to run efficiently at whole speed range. With Bosch's technological breakthroughs in its CVT technology, the production of our pushbelts has been considerably refined to offer several competitive advantages, compared to other transmission systems."

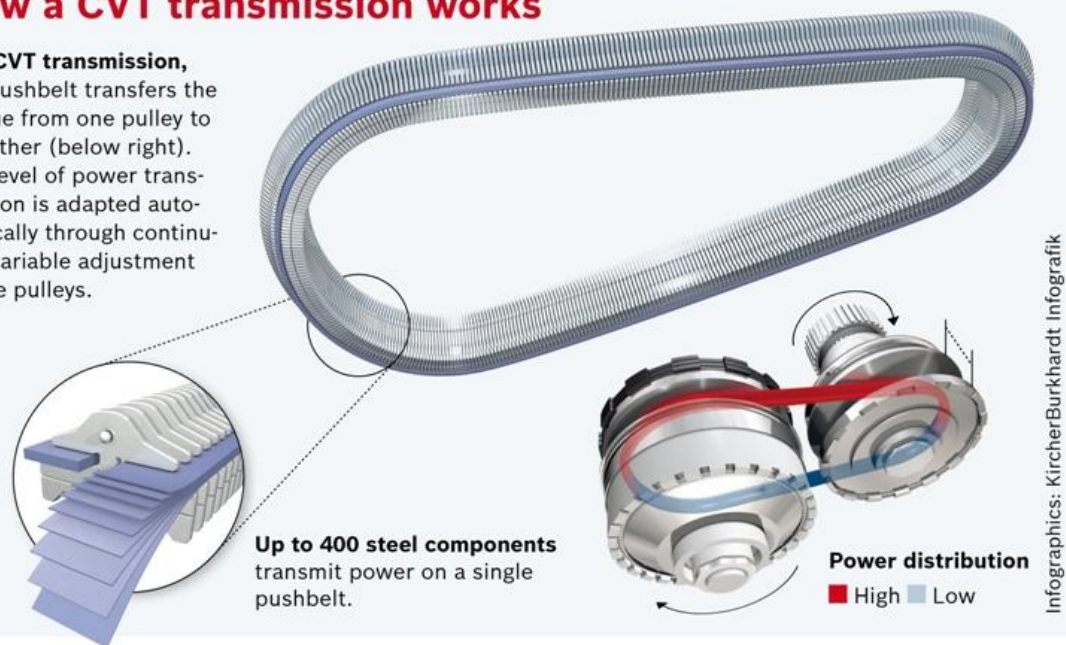
The pushbelt can transmit up to 450 Newton meters of power. This significantly improves the slender, yet sturdy belt's durability and performance, making it more attractive to auto manufacturers of top segment models with high torque.

Less energy is also consumed with the CVT system, reducing carbon dioxide (CO₂) emission by up to 7 percent.

Bosch's CVT technology also uses up to seven percent less fuel than manual gearboxes. Additional benefits of the eco-friendly pushbelt include the dynamic acceleration, consistently low engine noise and the system's intelligent adaptability to different driving styles to ensure smooth, continuous acceleration.

How a CVT transmission works

In a CVT transmission, the pushbelt transfers the torque from one pulley to the other (below right). The level of power transmission is adapted automatically through continuous variable adjustment of the pulleys.



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About Bosch in Vietnam

The Bosch Group has been present in Vietnam since 1994. In April 2008, it set up the 100% foreign-owned subsidiary, Robert Bosch Vietnam Co. Ltd in Ho Chi Minh City, with branch offices in Hanoi and a branch for manufacturing in Long Thanh, Dong Nai province (Gasoline Systems division). Today, the Bosch Group supplies a wide range of technology products including Automotive components, diagnostic tools and equipment, Drive and Control Technology, Power Tools, Security Systems, Thermotechnology and Solar Energy. Bosch also manufactures push belts for Continuously Variable Transmissions of automobiles in Long Thanh, Dong Nai Province since August 2008. Additional information can be accessed at www.bosch.com.vn.

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About the Bosch Group

The Bosch Group is a leading global supplier of technology and services. In the areas of automotive and industrial technology, consumer goods, and building technology, some 285,000 associates generated sales of 47.3 billion euros in fiscal 2010. The Bosch Group comprises Robert Bosch GmbH and its more than 350 subsidiaries and regional companies in over 60 countries. If its sales and service partners are included, then Bosch is represented in roughly 150 countries. This worldwide development, manufacturing, and sales network is the foundation for further growth. Bosch spent 3.8 billion euros for research and development in 2010, and applied for over 3,800 patents worldwide. With all its products and services, Bosch enhances the quality of life by providing solutions which are both innovative and beneficial.

Bosch is celebrating its 125th anniversary in 2011. The company was set up in Stuttgart in 1886 by Robert Bosch (1861-1942) as a "Workshop for Precision Mechanics and Electrical Engineering." The special ownership structure of Robert Bosch GmbH guarantees the entrepreneurial freedom of the Bosch Group, making it possible for the company to plan over the long term and to undertake significant up-front investments in the safeguarding of its future. Ninety-two percent of the share capital of Robert Bosch GmbH is held by Robert Bosch Stiftung GmbH, a charitable foundation. The majority of voting rights are held by Robert Bosch Industrietreuhand KG, an industrial trust. The entrepreneurial ownership functions are carried out by the trust. The remaining shares are held by the Bosch family and by Robert Bosch GmbH.

Additional information can be accessed at www.bosch.com, www.bosch-press.com, and www.125.bosch.com.