

ebm-papst donates wind tunnel to the German Museum

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Mulfingen/Munich, Germany

The idea of donating a wind tunnel to the German Museum arose during the presentation of the Diesel Medal in October of 2008 in Munich.

Gerhard Sturm, the founder of the ebm-papst Group and current Chairman of the Advisory Board, was honoured with this high distinction for inventors.

Together with ebm-papst Group Managing Director Dr Bruno Lindl, he presented the exhibit to Stephan Dietrich, Director of the German Museum.

With the wind tunnel, it will be possible in the future for visitors playfully to explore the behaviour of air flows. Two aerodynamically different vehicle bodies can be moved in alternation in an air current generated by fans. By controlling the fan speed, various vehicle speeds can be simulated. The change in flow resistance is then visually displayed.

Sturm thanked the German Museum for the opportunity to make a contribution to the illustration of aerodynamic characteristics.

"We can still achieve many improvements in this area," said the ebm-papst founder. Just looking at motorway travel, for example, around 70% of the drive output of vehicles is lost due to flow resistances. In the field of fans, the greatest potential lies in aerodynamics. "This is also where our concentrations in development are," said ebm-papst Research and Development Manager Dr Bruno Lindl.

"I'm happy to see how well the functional model is already being received by our visitors," said Dietrich. "Our very young guests in particular are interested in the wind tunnel," the museum director added. The initiative and the implementation by ebm-papst are exemplary, he stated.

The exhibit's future location will be in the vehicle and design department of the Transport Centre (Verkehrszentrum) in the German Museum in Munich.

Caption:

Image 1

Gerhard Sturm (right), founder of ebm-papst, presents a wind tunnel for simulating air flows to Stephan Dietrich (left), Director of the German Museum.

Image 2

ebm-papst donated a wind tunnel for simulating air flows to the German Museum in Munich.

About ebm-papst

The ebm-papst Group is the world's leading manufacturer of fans and motors and is a pioneer and pacesetter for ultra-efficient EC technology.

In the last fiscal year 09/10, the company generated turnover of 986 million EUR. ebm-papst employs over 10,000 people at 17 production facilities

(including Germany, China, USA) and 57 sales offices worldwide. Products of the global market leader are represented in many industries, including ventilation, air-conditioning and refrigeration technology, household appliances, heating engineering, in IT/telecommunications applications, as well as those in automotive and commercial vehicle engineering.

About the Transport Centre (Verkehrszentrum) of the German Museum

Transport museums are among the most-visited museums worldwide - they fascinate people with their impressive objects. Most museums of this kind, however, limit themselves to presenting the historical development of the means of transportation. The Transport museum of the German Museum is going new ways conceptually: Exhibits are presented that illustrate the networks and system relationships of transport and deal intensively with the contexts of transport development, particularly issues of mobility. In addition to the technical dimensions, the economical, political, social and cultural dimensions of transport are addressed and reflected on. This takes the form of questions about and retrospections into the past as well as grappling with current technologies.

However, the collection and the attractive form of presentation are not all that promise a unique experience: the exhibition halls themselves are worth seeing. The ensemble, opened in 1908, was planned by the architect Wilhelm Bertsch (1865–1916). Halls I and II he left as an iron skeleton structure, and Hall III, which has been open since 2003, was built as an iron-concrete structure. After being renovated, the recently reopened buildings now appear spacious and flooded with light.