

Fehrer: Lightweight and customizable

The automotive supplier Fehrer developed an innovative lightweight roof with a sandwich structure that is currently used in series production. A variety of customization options will be exhibited at IAA Cars 2015 as proof of the technical design freedom that can be achieved with the special production method.

The sandwich component developed by Fehrer Composite Components is a mix of polyurethane, fiberglass and paper honeycomb that is series-produced with a thermoplastic outer skin. Fehrer enhanced the lightweight roof structure and uses a variety of decorative materials to demonstrate how the roof can be given a different look and feel without fundamentally changing its physical characteristics. This is proof of the high level of design freedom that can be achieved with this special production method.

The intelligent combination of decorative foil and layers of fiber-reinforced polyurethane around a sandwich honeycomb structure makes the roof up to 30% lighter than the previous model's series-produced roof without comprising on robustness and with improved flexural rigidity.

Unlike conventional composite components, the individual layers are not glued together in a complex, multi-step process but produced in a single step, making the production of the part a lot more efficient.

About Fehrer:

Headquartered in Kitzingen, Germany, Fehrer is one of the world's leading specialist suppliers of vehicle interior components. The company has been working with renowned automobile manufacturers such as BMW, Daimler and Volkswagen Group since its inception in 1875.

Fehrer currently employs some 4,200 employees at 14 sites in Germany, the Czech Republic, Hungary, the USA, and China. Fehrer also has joint ventures in India and South Africa.

Fehrer is part of the internationally active AUNDE Group, which is one of the world's 100 biggest automotive suppliers.

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