



22.07.2015 Production line for transmission control systems in Neu-Ulm sets new standards

Neu-Ulm, Germany, June 2015. Dana has invested in a new production line for transmission control plates in Neu-Ulm. The gasket specialist will be manufacturing separator plates for the hydraulic control of automatic and dual-clutch transmission systems for the European market at its own facility. The initial serial production for transmission control plates has already started.

The production of transmission control plates is subject to demanding cleanliness requirements – even the tiniest particles can permanently damage the functioning of the parts. For this reason, the specially built production facility on the premises of Dana has been adapted to meet the strictest requirements of the automotive industry. The entire production and assembly is fully automatic and uses a newly developed method that guarantees the highest levels of industrial cleanliness. Quality control is conducted by a camera vision system. Individually trained employees wearing special clothing in a clean room prepare the finished, assembled transmission control plates for shipping.



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For Bruno Keller, production manager, this process is a further milestone in the production of innovative gasket systems. The Dana development team took advantage of its established knowledge in the field of developing and producing multi-layer-steel cylinder-head gaskets while carrying out its transmission control plate project. The company was one of the first manufacturers to develop and produce metal-elastomer cylinder-head gaskets and is now one of the leading suppliers of metal-elastomer sealing systems. This solution has set the benchmark for the industry thanks to its many innovations. The elastomer coating developed in-house is a decisive prerequisite for the seal and thus for the reliable functioning of the automatic transmission's hydraulic module. According to Günther Unseld, director, global advanced manufacturing, this is a further step in expanding the technological leadership of Dana.

Victor Reinz® transmission control plates unlock completely new possibilities for gearbox manufacturers: earlier sealing concepts always exhibit tiny leaks. Dana's new gasket design offers maximum reliability, improves the efficiency of the entire drivetrain, and thus makes an important contribution to increasing the efficiency of modern drive concepts with reduced consumption value and CO₂ emissions.

With the production of transmission control plates, Dana is tapping into a new field of business with enormous potential for development, since

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more and more automobiles are equipped with automatic, dual-clutch, stageless or automated manual transmissions. Potential customers include all of the world's largest automotive and transmission manufacturers. The first serial production orders for a European automobile manufacturer have already come in.

The new production line for transmission control plates is a strong signal from Dana to its subsidiary REINZ-Dichtungs-GmbH. This investment further reinforces the Neu-Ulm location, securing existing jobs and creating new ones. And Neu-Ulm is the starting point for the transmission control plates' worldwide roll-out. Serial production launch in China is just around the corner, while further market introductions are being planned.

Learn more about transmission control plates

Innovative automatic transmissions combine the advantages of hand-shifted and conventional automatic transmissions in a single transmission concept. More and more shifting operations with shorter and shorter reaction times create a significant challenge for the transmission's hydraulic system. This system's control center includes a mechatronics module that combines electronic transmission control and the hydraulic shifter within the gearbox into a single unit. The control unit calculates the most efficient gear, while the hydraulics handle the operation. The transmission control plate is directly placed in the

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mechatronic unit's hydraulic module and fulfils a dual function: first, it seals off the entire system inside and out, and second, it controls the flow of transmission oil through the flow channels to control the automatic transmission.

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