PRESS RELEASE

**Dürr presents EcoProFleet as the first AGV for the paint shop of the future**

**Bietigheim-Bissingen, May 13, 2019 – Automobile production of the future is moving away from the production line and towards modular workstations. An important feature here are flexible automatic guided vehicles, or AGVs for short. Dürr is presenting the first AGV specifically designed for paint shops as a new solution for more intelligent production at the 11th Open House, taking place from 13 to 17 May 2019 at the headquarters in Bietigheim-Bissingen. EcoProFleet combines tried-and-tested industrial components with innovative ideas, like a new energy storage concept. This means that the AGV is ready for operation around the clock – without breaks for charging at the power outlet.**

Whether small cars or SUVs, with electric motors or combustion engines, the range of vehicle models being painted in a plant is ever-increasing. Manufacturers want to be able to easily integrate new vehicle types into the production process. This desire for flexibility and scalability is pushing linear production to its limits. The necessary migration to modular production is also requiring manufacturers to rethink their production logistics. Instead of transporting bodies using conveyor technology laid rigidly in the ground, they are moved independently and in a parallel formation between workstations, finishing booths, and intermediate storage. The resulting cost benefits are all the greater the more different and individual the bodies are constructed and painted, because the modular painting and production process means no more waiting times as a result of different processing times. Downtimes caused by sudden malfunctions are also reduced to a minimum, since AGVs can be redirected to a different workstation or a different painting booth. "Scalability and flexibility are becoming increasingly important in paint shops. With **Eco**ProFleet we have designed the first AGV for paint shops and thus created an important enabler for these requirements," says Jens Reiner, Director R&D and Product Management at Dürr, describing the significance of the new development.

**Exact fulfillment of paint-specific requirements**

**Eco**ProFleet is the first AGV that has been specifically optimized for the needs of paint shops. The paint- and solvent-resistant platform is just 335 mm high. This low height means that the AGVs can go under all typical workstations and conveyor systems in order to feed in, pass off, or pick up bodies, and thus work together perfectly at the interfaces. In order to transport the heavy loads stably, the **Eco**ProFleet has been designed with an unladen weight of 850 kg in good proportion with the maximum load capacity of 1,000 kg. The integrated technology with laser scanner and safety limit speed guarantees a high level of safety.

**Intelligent concept for energy supply and control**

The energy storage concept with supercap technology enables smart logistics tailored precisely to the painting process. **Eco**ProFleet uses capacitors as energy stores, which charge within just 1.5 minutes. The charging points are installed strategically in the plant layout where the AGV would be stationary anyway for passing off or picking up a body. This short time frame is enough to supply the supercap capacitors with more than enough energy for the next section. Compared with a battery-powered fleet, where a fixed number of transport systems always has to be kept plugged into a power outlet for hours, the big benefit of **Eco**ProFleet’s energy concept is that all the AGVs are always on the move and working. This is guaranteed by a sophisticated control system, which is connected to **DXQ**control, the central production control technology from Dürr. Dürr thus offers a consistent, intelligent control system across all levels for the use of AGVs in paint shops: the device control for physical control of the individual AGVs, the fleet control for route planning and the higher-level order planning are transparently linked via interfaces. This allows AGVs to fully exploit their potential as a flexible and efficient transport system.

**Eco**ProFleet is not only functionally convincing, but also attractive to look at: its successful design has won the prestigious IF Design Award.

*The Dürr Group is one of the world's leading mechanical and plant engineering firms with extensive expertise in automation and digitization/Industry 4.0. Products, systems and services offered by the Group enable highly efficient manufacturing processes in different industries. Dürr supplies sectors like the automotive industry, mechanical engineering, chemical, pharmaceutical and woodworking industries. The Group generated sales of € 3.71 billion in 2017. In October 2018, Dürr acquired the industrial environmental technology business of US-based company Babcock & Wilcox, comprising the Megtec and Universal brands. Since then, the company has over 16,000 employees and 108 business locations in 32 countries. The Group operates in the market with five divisions:*

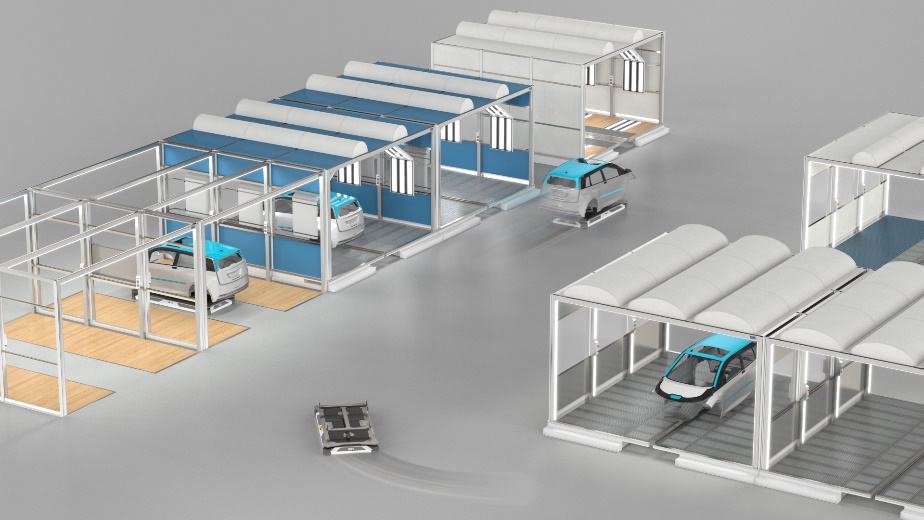
* ***Paint and Final Assembly Systems:*** *paint shops and final assembly systems for the automotive industry*
* ***Application Technology:*** *robot technologies for the automated application of paint, sealants and adhesives*
* ***Clean Technology Systems:*** *air pollution control systems and noise abatement systems*
* ***Measuring and Process Systems:*** *balancing equipment as well as assembly, testing and filling technology*
* ***Woodworking Machinery and Systems:*** *machinery and equipment for the woodworking industry*

Pictures:

The following pictures can be found [here](https://www.durr.com/en/media/news/news-detail/view/duerr-presents-ecoprofleet-as-the-first-agv-for-the-paint-shop-of-the-future-76376/) on our website.



Picture 1: **Eco**ProFleet by Dürr is the first AGV specifically designed for paint shops.



Picture 2: With **Eco**ProFleet car bodies are moved independently and in a parallel formation between stations in the paint shop.

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