

PRESS RELEASE

Selb, August 18th, 2021

Clean sensors thanks to innovative Cler TM technology Successful cooperation between dlhBOWLES and RAPA Automotive



Clean optical sensors and cameras are a decisive criterion for safety on the road

An innovative cleaning system for sensors is the result of the first cooperation between dlhBOWLES and RAPA Automotive, both specialists in their field. The Cler TM technology was presented for the first time at the CES in Las Vegas and is now also available in Europe – just in time for autonomous driving. For this reason sensors are becoming increasingly important in automotive technology. Driver assistance systems and the soon-to-be-approved autonomous driving will only work if sensors are functioning properly.

Driver assistance systems have been standard for years. Autonomous driving will soon be integrated into daily life in Germany and throughout Europe. In Germany, driver less cars will be able to take part in normal road traffic as early as 2022. However, driver assistance systems and autonomous vehicles can only operate smoothly if their large number of sensors deliver reliable data. In addition to camera and ultrasonic sensors, these automobiles are equipped with lidar and radar sensors.

All the different sensors have one thing in common: they get dirty and have to be cleaned regularly. Rain, mud, insects or the remains of birds can contaminate the sensors. Of course,

a dirty sensor cannot make reliable measurements. But driver assistance systems and autonomous driving need the data from the sensors to function safely.

Unfortunately, sensors cannot simply be rinsed off because this could lead to damage.

That is why two market leaders in their field have now developed an innovative cleaning system that allows sensors of all kinds to do their job spick and span. The new Cler™ sensor cleaning system combines the expertise of the specialist in the distribution of liquids dlhBOWLES and the experts in solenoid systems from RAPA Automotive.

RAPA developed the modular FCU (Fluid Control Unit) for this purpose. Several proven solenoid valves are combined in a valve block for this purpose. This block is the center piece of the Cler™ sensor cleaning system. In the entire system of a vehicle, this intelligent technology guarantees controlled dosing and pressure control of liquids as required. This enables the reliable cleaning of camera lenses and sensors. The system uses the cleaning liquid very sparingly, as there is only a limited amount of space available for the storage tanks, and still always achieves an optimum cleaning result. Another plus: The innovative system can be easily integrated into the existing car wash.

This Cler™ technology is now also available on the European market. This first-time cooperation is a milestone for both companies. The US subsidiary RAPA LP of the German company RAPA Automotive in Selb, Bavaria, and dlhBOWLES joined forces in April 2019 for this project, which came about on the initiative of dlhBowles.

About the two companies

dlhBOWLES supplies practically every major automobile manufacturer worldwide with technical solutions. The more than 60 year old company with several locations in the USA specializes in fluid and air management components and assemblies. A strong research and development department have made dlhBOWLES a pioneer in the industry with over 250 patents in the field of management systems and devices for liquids.

RAPA Automotive is known for customer-specific component development in the chassis area. The subsidiary of RAPA Holding in Selb, Bavaria, looks back on over 100 years of history. Over time, the electrical company has developed into a leading system supplier to the automotive industry. Customers include Porsche, Tesla, Mercedes-Benz and Audi, to name just a few. RAPA's portfolio includes valves, components for chassis and transmission as well as mechatronic system developments.

Press Photo

Image Material: RAPA | dlhBowles

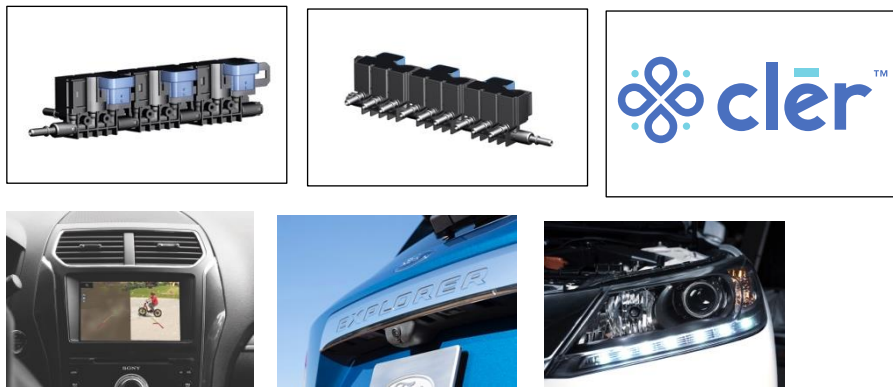


Fig. 01+02: Fluid Control Unit, (FCU)

Fig. 03: Product Branding Clër™

Fig. 04: Safety is the top priority in road traffic, and to achieve this, vehicles must always have a detailed view of their surroundings

Fig. 05: Rear Camera Cleaning Application

Fig. 06: Closeup Sensors

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