

Sustainable automotive painting

Dürr's EcoQPower reduces energy consumption in paint shops by 21%

Bietigheim-Bissingen, June 13, 2024 – The mechanical and plant engineering company Dürr has developed a sustainable energy management system for automotive paint shops that can reduce both energy requirements and CO₂ emissions by around 20%. The intelligent EcoQPower system links all energy flows in the painting process and enables excess heat and cold to be used elsewhere for heating or cooling. Dürr is currently building a paint shop optimized with EcoQPower for a German automobile manufacturer. It is the first paint shop to comply with EU Taxonomy requirements.

The Fraunhofer Institute for Building Physics IBP in Stuttgart has analyzed the effect of EcoQPower on the carbon footprint of paint shops. Two identical paint shop concepts were compared – one with and one without EcoQPower and each with all-electric operation using a conventional electricity mix. The result: EcoQPower reduces CO₂ emissions by 19.2% over the entire life cycle of the paint shop, i.e. from production (including material transport) to recycling at the end of use.

The utilization phase is particularly important: Thanks to EcoQPower, 21% less energy is needed in the painting process because the energy used is utilized much more efficiently. At the heart of the combined heating and cooling system realized with EcoQPower are heat pumps, water circuits, and intelligent software.

Dr. Jochen Weyrauch, CEO of Dürr AG: "Painting is the most energy-intensive value-added step in automotive production. Our innovation work is therefore focused on the development of sustainable and highly automated technologies with maximum energy efficiency. This is how we effectively support our customers in decarbonizing their plants and achieving their climate targets."

The study of the Fraunhofer Institute shows: Energy-optimized operation of paint shops with EcoQPower improves not only the carbon footprint but also the

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economic efficiency. With a utilization period of 15 years and 110,000 painted cars per year, plant operators save costs in the seven-figure range yearly thanks to the 21% reduction in energy consumption.

The Dürr paint shop equipped with **EcoQPower** also meets the demanding EU Taxonomy requirements. The taxonomy is a central element of the Green Deal, with which the European Union wants to accelerate the climate-friendly restructuring of the economy. The regulations serve to classify sustainable investments that support climate and environmental protection.

Images for this press release can be found [here](#).

The Dürr Group is one of the world's leading mechanical and plant engineering firms with particular expertise in the technology fields of automation, digitalization, and energy efficiency. Its products, systems, and services enable highly efficient and sustainable manufacturing processes – mainly in the automotive industry and for producers of furniture and timber houses, but also in sectors such as the chemical and pharmaceutical industries, medical devices, electrical engineering, and battery production. In 2023, the company generated sales of €4.6 billion. The Dürr Group has around 20,500 employees and 142 business locations in 32 countries, and it operates in the market with five divisions:

- **Paint and Final Assembly Systems:** paint shops as well as final assembly, testing, and filling technology for the automotive industry
- **Application Technology:** robots and products for the automated application of paint, sealants, and adhesives
- **Clean Technology Systems:** air pollution control, coating systems for battery electrodes, and noise abatement systems
- **Industrial Automation Systems:** automated assembly and test systems for automotive components, medical devices, and consumer goods as well as balancing and diagnostic technology
- **Woodworking Machinery and Systems:** machinery and equipment for the woodworking industry

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