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AUTOMOTIVE

Led by Mercedes, major EU players back sustainable vehicle supply chain venture

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Mercedes-Benz is one of 10 automotive brands to join the venture. Image credit: Mercedes-Benz

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

German automaker Mercedes-Benz is one of 10 entities to jointly found Cofinity-X, an initiative that aims to further the adoption of the Catena-X network throughout the automotive industry.



Catena-X is an open data ecosystem that enables vehicle companies to exchange standardized global data via end-to-end value chains. By promoting Catena-X, the Cofinity-X shareholders hope to foster transparency and collaboration along all points in the automotive industry.

"At Mercedes-Benz, we're convinced that transparency, efficiency, and data sovereignty are the key levers for sustainable and data-driven value chains," said Markus Schfer, member of the board of management at Mercedes-Benz Group AG and chief technology officer of development and procurement at Mercedes-Benz Group AG, in a statement.

"Through the new Cofinity-X joint venture, we are bringing to life the Catena-X vision of an open ecosystem for secure and standardized data exchange along the entire value chain," Mr. Schfer said. "The first solutions are almost ready and, thanks to Cofinity-X, every company in the automotive sector can shortly benefit from services and offers that use the results of Catena-X."

Links in a chain

With this effort, the members of Cofinity-X, which also include BMW Group and Volkswagen, look to allow future customers the ability to access information about their vehicles as relates to Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) standards.

Points of interest include the vehicle's carbon emissions, circular economy and traceability.

With Cofinity-X, #MercedesBenz and nine automotive partners will further foster the adoption of the #CatenaX network. #CofinityX aims to provide products and services for the secure exchange of data throughout the entire automotive value chain.

More: https://t.co/CmvOL9yRuZ pic.twitter.com/IW5RUcz4qK

Mercedes-Benz Press (@MB_Press) January 31, 2023

For example, the Cofinity-X initiative would provide carbon footprint tracking capabilities for an accurate reporting of CO2 emissions.

Similarly, traceability applications would allow customers to see the origins of any and all parts of their vehicles. What is more, suppliers and customers alike would have transparent access to the condition of all parts, and how to properly re-use them in the name of promoting circularity.

Cofinity-X recognizes that for this mission to be successful, all must be willing to participate. To drive acceptance among the rest of the automotive industry, most of which consist of small and medium-sized operations, the joint members will offer four key products and services beginning in April of 2023.

One offering is an open marketplace where customers can implement business applications. Another is the ability to exchange secure and standardized data between parties, ensuring each one stays in control of their own.

Yet another is ensuring that business applications on the marketplace are powered by shared, federated services. Finally, the partners will offer onboarding assistance to facilitate the adoption of Catena-X, hastening the connection among all involved.

Cofinity-X will initially focus on the European market. This is not the first effort Mercedes-Benz has made toward reducing its vehicles' carbon emissions.

Earlier this month, the automaker began construction on its high-powered EV charging networks, a \$1 billion undertaking (see story).

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