

Life-saving Protection for the Most Vulnerable on the Road

Protecto®, IEE's innovative pedestrian protection system, reduces the chances of serious and fatal head injuries in the event of an accident.

Luxembourg, November 5th 2007 – Today's development of automobile safety features focuses more and more on making sure that not only those inside the vehicle, but those *outside* the vehicle as well have improved chances of surviving a collision.

Protecto®, the pedestrian protection system from IEE, ensures a drastic reduction in the number of head and spinal injuries suffered by pedestrians who are involved in an automobile accident.

The European Union set a goal back in 2001 of reducing the number of traffic deaths in member states to a maximum of 25,000 per year by 2010. However, according to a report from the independent European Transport Safety Council (ETSC), more than 39,000 fatalities occurred on Europe's roads in 2006.

EU guidelines for pedestrian protection

One of the measures the European Union has taken to reduce the number of injuries and fatalities in an accident is to introduce pedestrian protection systems in automobiles. Since 2005, an EU directive has outlined special inspections on the forward structures of new models. The first phase demands that, beginning October 1st, 2005, all licensed models pass a component test. This test involves measuring the emulated impact of human body parts on the front areas of vehicles at speeds of 35 to 40kmh. Certain limits applied to the head and legs may not be exceeded during a collision in order for the vehicle to pass.

IEE's Protecto® Pedestrian Protection System helps realize the standards set by this directive.

A deployable bonnet system can reduce the force of impact by up to 90%*

Protecto® operates using a sensor placed in the front bumper that determines if the vehicle is colliding with an object or a person. In the event of a collision with a pedestrian, the deployable bonnet system will engage within 45 milliseconds**, lifting the bonnet up about 80 millimeters. This provides an often life-saving safety margin – a “crumple zone” – between the pedestrian's head and the rock-hard engine underneath the bonnet. The risk of suffering serious injury is drastically reduced because the comparably “soft” bonnet deforms to absorb most of the energy from an impact.

The sensor itself can recognize and classify an object in 10 to 15 milliseconds, while proprietary algorithms developed by IEE prevent the bonnet from inadvertently activating.

The European Commission has stated it plans to strengthen the EU directive between 2013 and 2015; Protecto® is IEE's answer to today's need for passive vehicle safety and pedestrian protection.

* Source: ADAC (German automobile club)

** Depending on the system structure used, Protecto® can achieve a reaction time of as little as 45 milliseconds.

About IEE

IEE S.A. is a world leading innovative developer of specialized sensing systems. IEE was founded in 1989 and is headquartered in Luxembourg. The Company has operations in the United States, Europe and Asia.

IEE products focus mainly on sensing applications for occupant detection and classification used in safety systems by the automotive industry and is a global industry leader in this area.

IEE also targets the automotive comfort and convenience, consumer electronics and industrial markets through its LuSense business unit. It develops tailor-made and innovative smart input applications used, amongst others, in car interiors, mobile phones, MP3 players, industrial automation and medical equipment.

IEE has a diversified portfolio of premier customers including Alfa Romeo, Audi, Bentley, BMW, Chery, General Motors, Hyundai, Jaguar, Land Rover, Logitech, Maserati, Mercedes-Benz, Motorola, Nissan, PSA, Renault, Rolls-Royce, Samsung, Toyota, Volkswagen and Volvo.

IEE employs over 1,200 people worldwide and operates manufacturing sites in Echternach (Luxembourg) and Langfang (China). IEE has technical centers in Contern (Luxembourg), Beijing (China), Michigan (USA), Seoul (South Korea) and Kosice (Slovakia). IEE also has a representative office in Tokyo (Japan). 26% of the firm's workforce is engaged in R&D. IEE's global presence enables it to offer local services to all its customers.

For more information, please visit www.iee.lu.

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