

Press release

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MAHLE opens Start-Up Space for new business ideas

- Corporate start-ups and MAHLE Incubator under one roof
- Incubator and start-ups are key elements of MAHLE's innovation strategy
- MAHLE encourages the talents and entrepreneurial spirit of its workforce
- MAHLE start-ups chargeBIG and Com4Kids already successfully established on the market

MAHLE is opening a Start-Up Space in Stuttgart/Germany for its corporate start-ups and teams developing novel business concepts in the Incubator. Since 2017, the Incubator has been an established group-wide program supporting the development of new business ideas and a key part of MAHLE's innovation strategy. Through the program, which transforms promising business propositions into their own start-ups, MAHLE offers employees the opportunity to continue their professional development, take an entrepreneurial approach, and try out new ways of working. The Start-Up Space will provide a workplace for start-ups chargeBIG and Com4Kids, which are already established on the market. Additional teams are expected to join them in the fall once they have successfully completed their incubation phase.

"Our Incubator activities are a crucial element of our innovation strategy," explains Dr. Jörg Stratmann, CEO and Chairman of the MAHLE Management Board. "We're consistently investing in the development of new business ideas in order to play an active role in shaping the transformation and position MAHLE for future success. Encouraging the talents and entrepreneurial spirit of our workforce plays a key part."

Incubator tests out new business ideas quickly

"In addition to our conventional approach to product innovation, we've opened up a new way of diversifying the group's range of products and services through business model innovations via the Incubator," relates head of Corporate Planning Jochen Adelman, who is responsible for the MAHLE Incubator. "The Incubator allows us to test product ideas directly on the market quickly, flexibly, and at low cost. In our new Start-Up Space, we are now bringing together all the

program's creative minds. The Start-Up Space will also act as a test laboratory, fostering agile methods and new forms of cooperation at MAHLE.”

The new premises are located at MAHLE's group headquarters in Stuttgart-Bad Cannstatt/Germany. Thanks to the open-plan design of the office, with areas intended for meetings and quiet creativity, teams will be able to interact more closely and learn from each other.

chargeBIG is a system for charging electric vehicles efficiently

chargeBIG is one of the two start-ups that emerged from the first MAHLE Incubator in 2017. The start-up has developed a scalable intelligent charging solution for electric vehicles that are left in a parking lot all day or for long periods. The system supplies electricity to as many parking spaces as possible at the lowest cost possible with the result that 20 to 100—or more—vehicles can be charged at one location at the same time. By utilizing the available energy infrastructure intelligently, the level of investment and installation effort are kept to a minimum. This makes chargeBIG the ideal solution for fleet operators, office buildings, and large residential complexes. The MAHLE start-up is therefore making an important contribution toward the widespread establishment of e-mobility.

Com4Kids ensures the thermal comfort of our youngest passengers

Com4Kids uses MAHLE's many years of experience in thermal management to solve an everyday problem for families: lots of children either sweat or freeze in their car seats. Com4Kids has developed an intelligent solution for baby carriers and child's car seats so that little ones can enjoy a comfortable temperature whatever the season, with natural cooling thanks to ventilation in the summer and pleasant warmth in the winter. In the long term, the start-up also aims to bring climate-controlled products for other applications onto the market.

MAHLE Incubator program a successful cradle for corporate start-ups

Since the group's internal Incubator program launched in 2017, around 250 employees have taken part from more than 20 countries in Europe and China, and several hundred ideas have been developed. At the end of 2020, the successful teams participating in the current round of the Incubator project in Europe will also move into the new Start-Up Space.



The new Start-up Space is located at the MAHLE headquarters in Stuttgart-Bad Cannstatt/Germany.



Thanks to the open-plan design of the offices, the MAHLE teams will be able to interact more closely and learn from each other.



Jochen Adelman explains the various steps of the MAHLE Incubator program.

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About MAHLE

MAHLE is a leading international development partner and supplier to the automotive industry. The technology group is committed to playing an active role in transforming the mobility of the future by further optimizing the combustion engine, driving forward the use of alternative fuels, and laying the foundation for the worldwide introduction of e-mobility and other alternative drives, such as fuel cells. The group's product portfolio addresses all the crucial aspects of the powertrain and air conditioning technology.

In 2019, MAHLE generated sales of approximately EUR 12.0 billion and is represented in over 30 countries with more than 77,000 employees in 160 production locations and 16 major research and development centers. (Last revised: 2019-12-31)