

# Press Release

Munich, 27 March, 2017



## **BMW Group and Allianz Worldwide Partners: Joint position on liability laws to be suitable for future automated vehicles**

- Accident frequency expected to decline significantly
- Existing liability laws are suitable for automated vehicles

Recent years have seen considerable progress towards achieving the goal of automated vehicles. Advanced driver assistance systems have been proven to make roads safer and are now increasingly entering the market in current vehicle generations. Partly and fully automated vehicles are expected to reduce accident frequency significantly. The liability question still remains, and is one of the major focal points of a joint work-group between Allianz Worldwide Partners and BMW Group on automated driving.

With the transfer from individual human driving to automated driving, Allianz Worldwide Partners expects to see a shift of responsibilities. However, both companies support the principle of the motor insurers being the single point of entry for the victim in every incident resulting from the vehicle's operation, whether in manual or autonomous mode. Many countries already follow this principle combined with a mandatory vehicle liability insurance. In this case the holder of the vehicle will be liable for the errors of the driver as well as of the vehicle, with his insurer paying claims arising, as is the case today. In the case of a potential product defect, the car manufacturer and the insurance company will commonly jointly investigate the causation and responsibilities. "We have a common sense on the existing principle as particularly suitable for partially and highly automated vehicles and support its global standardization", states Elmar Frickenstein, Senior Vice President Autonomous Driving and Driver Assistance of BMW Group.

"In the case of an accident, both the vehicle owner and a potential victim would get help quickly without the uncertainty of lengthy litigation on the subject of whose fault it is", explains Claudius Leibfritz, CEO of Allianz Global Automotive and Member of the Board of Allianz Worldwide Partners. "We strongly support an extension of this principle to further markets."

Additionally, Allianz Worldwide Partners and BMW Group agree to further intensify their working relationship on all aspects of automated driving in order to reduce potential obstacles on the future of individual mobility. "We are highly committed to supporting the market entry of automated vehicles with the support of such an advanced player as BMW Group. With the in-depths expertise in the field of autonomous driving through our Automotive Innovation Center we are already well-positioned", says Claudius Leibfritz.

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**About Allianz Worldwide Partners**

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Dedicated to bringing worldwide protection and care, Allianz Worldwide Partners is the B2B2C leader in assistance and insurance solutions in the following areas of expertise: global assistance, international health & life, global automotive and travel insurance. These solutions, which are a unique combination of insurance, service and technology, are available to business partners or via direct and digital channels under three internationally renowned brands: Allianz Global Assistance, Allianz Worldwide Care and Allianz Global Automotive. This global family of over 16000 employees is present in 75 countries, speaks 70 languages and handles 40 million cases per year, protecting customers and employees on all continents.

Allianz Global Automotive is a globally renowned and specialized brand of Allianz Worldwide Partners bundling the automotive business of Allianz Worldwide Partners. It's a growing business with a presence in all major automotive markets, well known for being a strategic partner of car manufacturers for insurance and mobility services. Automotive manufacturers and mobility providers can choose from a broad portfolio of customized products and solutions in the field of motor insurance, warranty, assistance and ancillary products.

The Automotive Innovation Center(AIC) is the Allianz innovation engine for all topics related to Automotive Mobility. As a developer of insurance and assistance solutions it acts as a center of competence interfacing automobile manufacturers and mobility service providers. In cooperation with the international operating entities of Allianz, the AIC conceptualizes, tests and implements innovative business models, products and processes.

For more information, please visit [www.allianz-worldwide-partners.com](http://www.allianz-worldwide-partners.com)

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**About BMW Group**

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With its three brands BMW, MINI and Rolls-Royce, the BMW Group is the world's leading premium manufacturer of automobiles and motorcycles and also provides premium financial and mobility services. As a global company, the BMW Group operates 31 production and assembly facilities in 14 countries and has a global sales network in more than 140 countries.

In 2016, the BMW Group sold approximately 2.367 million cars and 145,000 motorcycles worldwide. The profit before tax was approximately € 9.67 billion on revenues amounting to € 94.16 billion. As of 31 December 2016, the BMW Group had a workforce of 124,729 employees.

The success of the BMW Group has always been based on long-term thinking and responsible action. The company has therefore established ecological and social sustainability throughout the

value chain, comprehensive product responsibility and a clear commitment to conserving resources as an integral part of its strategy.

For more information, please visit [www.bmwgroup.com](http://www.bmwgroup.com)