

# AUTO TECH REVIEW SUCCESSFULLY ORGANISES FIRST CTO ROUNDTABLE



The first edition of the CTO Roundtable attracted healthy participation both from OEMs as well as suppliers from the powertrain and electronics domains

At the just-concluded Auto Expo – Components, Auto Tech Review successfully organised a CTO Roundtable – an event conceived to kindle ideas within members of the automotive community that would result in making local technologies and engineering globally acceptable. Held on February 7, the topic of the roundtable was ‘Making Indian Technology Count’, in sync with the component show’s theme of ‘Auto Components Made In India – For The World’.

The event focussed on two areas that the Indian industry believes it has strength and capabilities in – powertrain and in-vehicle electronics. A diverse mix of speakers from across OEMs and suppliers offered fresh perspectives on the challenges and opportunities in the future.

Delivering the opening address at the CTO Roundtable, Dinesh Tyagi, Director, International Centre for Automotive Technology (iCAT) spoke of the role that organisations

like iCAT and National Automotive Testing and R&D Infrastructure Project (NATRIP) are playing in beefing up the certification process of vehicles and components. There is a need for Indian manufacturers to create end-to-end solutions, as well as upgrading products, to become a globally competitive industry, he noted.

Jayant Davar, Founder, Co-Chairman, and Managing Director, Sandhar Technologies Ltd delivered the keynote address, stressing on the largely build-to-print nature of Indian suppliers. Davar also spoke about the various challenges that suppliers face in the country, including high tax rates, shortage and high cost of

power, lack of skilled workforce and low rate of productivity. He added that the creation of an environment for research and development (R&D) itself is a challenge. R&D cannot be isolated, but has to be a collaborative effort, for manufacturers to move in the right direction and make their technology count, Davar said.

## POWERTRAIN TECHNOLOGIES

The first session on powertrain technologies had presentations by Purushottam Panda, VP (Engineering), Maruti Suzuki, Maruti Suzuki, and Joerg Bouzek, Head of Department –



Jayant Davar (L) delivered the keynote address, while Dinesh Tyagi (R) opened the event with his inaugural address



(L-R): Purushottam Panda, VP (Engg), Maruti Suzuki; RS Chauhan, Country Manager, Powertrain Gas PBU, Delphi Automotive Systems; Joerg Bouzek, Head of Department – Powertrain, Volkswagen India, Padmesh Mandloi, Manager – Technical, ANSYS and Amar Bakare from Tata Technologies were the speakers in the session on powertrain technologies

Powertrain, Volkswagen India, representing OEMs. Amar Bakare from Tata Technologies, RS Chauhan, Country Manager, Powertrain Gas PBU, Delphi Automotive Systems and Padmesh Mandloi, Manager – Technical, ANSYS represented the suppliers and engineering side for the powertrain technologies section.

The session on powertrain technologies laid special focus on downsizing of engines. There were discussions on the counter measures that can be employed to make these engines perform better and have acceptable load-carrying capacities. Components like turbochargers, automated manual transmissions (AMTs) and other similar products could make these downsized engines make up for their loss in size, as well as make them efficient, presentations suggested. Technologies like selective cylinder shutdown were also seen as ways to improve the fuel efficiency of engines. Powertrain technologies were discussed with relevance to petrol as well as diesel engines.

Other discussions were with regards to the refinement in terms of noise, vibration, harshness (NVH) levels. Speakers talked about alterations to components, with minimal change in manufacturing set-up that could make vehicles smoother and perform better. Lowering of emissions and making vehicles that fulfil global norms was also showcased. A high level of hygiene is required during engine production in order to manufacture products of high quality, noted speakers. Hygiene during production of parts and components too will help maintain the quality of goods, which directly helps in Indian suppliers being acceptable as global players.

Mandloi threw light on simulation technologies being used for the development and validation of products. It was said that simulation is important for companies to keep up promises of providing new technologies to customers, as the technologies can be tested quickly and with ease.

### IN-VEHICLE ELECTRONICS

A Srinivas, Vice President, Vehicle System COEs, Mahindra and Mahindra was the sole representative from the OEM side in the session on in-vehicle electronics. Component manufacturers representing this session were Dr Christian Neumann, Head of Business Unit Commercial Vehicle and Aftermarket, Continental Automotive Components (India), Dhruba J Sarma, Country Manager, Delphi Electronics and Safety India and Vishnu Sundaram, Director, Telematics, Harman International.

Discussions about the development of instrument clusters, infotainment systems and simplifying driving were the focus areas during the in-vehicle electronics session. Connected vehicle technologies along with vehicles being connected to



Purushottam Panda of Maruti Suzuki talked about how the Auto Gear Shift technology introduced in the Celerio could redefine transmission technology in India

intelligent transport systems were seen as a step into the future of safe and connected vehicles. The general idea gained from this session was that connected vehicles are the future of mobility.

Connected vehicles also need to present safety aspects, speakers noted. Infotainment systems that are connected, which minimise distractions and maximise safety are the way of the future. In India especially, customers are seen spending money on aftermarket audio and infotainment systems, which opens opportunities to infotainment system manufacturers, a speaker noted. Safety is a feature that is expected to be an integral part of all in-vehicle electronics, speakers said. In the not-too-distant future, vehicle electronics are expected to have both active and passive safety systems included in them in order to provide a comprehensive package.

### CONCLUSION

The first CTO Roundtable was able to bring about aspects the industry is currently lacking in, as well as some of the strengths of the industry. Helping create a roadmap to work upon these ideas and make positive changes in the automotive technology scenario is what the CTO Roundtable plans to achieve in its forthcoming editions, details of which will be announced in the coming months.



(L-R): Dr Christian Neumann, Head of Business Unit CV and Aftermarket, Continental; Dhruba J Sarma, Country Manager, Delphi Electronics and Safety India; A Srinivas, VP, Vehicle System COEs, M&M and Vishnu Sundaram, Director, Telematics, Harman International presented on in-vehicle electronics

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