



Press Release

Kiekert's Latest Door Innovation

With i-close and i-move Kiekert, the inventor of central locking, now unveils the ultimate luxury experience for the compact class.

Heiligenhaus, November 2008. Kiekert revolutionises the car door with the introduction of its new luxury technology for the mass market: the i-close and the i-move.

i-close (intelligent closing) offers intelligent soft closing without the high production costs associated with this much sought after feature. No longer need this be the exclusive reserve of premium cars. i-close closes the door automatically and silently to the primary position, and a dedicated actuator then securely fastens the door. Door slamming and non-securely fastened doors will soon be relegated to automotive history for the majority of motorists. In a single sweep, driver and passengers can now enjoy higher levels of convenience, silent door operation and safety.

What was once a typical application for only the luxury class segment is now available to purchasers of volume models. With i-move, to shut the door, the mere press of a button by the driver will automatically move the open door towards the car. Then i-close will automatically shut the door, or the driver may still shut the door manually. i-move eliminates physical exertion for children, the elderly and those with limited limb movement.

The Kiekert innovative latch system has all the advantages and qualities of previous latch systems, but at low cost. From a technical point of view, the method of component manufacture and the assembly process ensure costs of mass production are lowered, but with no compromise to quality.

In the words of Dr Karl Krause, CEO of Kiekert, "With i-close and i-move, Kiekert has developed products which are revolutionary for two reasons. On the one hand, we made a big step towards our vision of a "silently operating door", and on the other hand, to offer to every motorist high quality features of luxury and safety so far exclusively reserved to the premium class."

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Kiekert employs around 4,000 people worldwide, including some 1,100 at corporate headquarters in Heiligenhaus, Germany. Kiekert operates production and R&D facilities in Germany, the Czech Republic, the USA and Mexico. It also has sales offices and affiliates in the major automotive industry centres and growth automotive markets. Kiekert group posted global revenues of €510 million in 2007.

Kiekert AG is the market and technology leader with global production volumes of more than 41 million side door latches for automobiles. The inventor of the modern central locking is more than 150 years old and has the most comprehensive experience in the production of soft close applications.

Kiekert latches are found in nearly all automotive brands in the world. As innovation driver and manufacturer Kiekert has become an essential partner for the OEMs. Kiekert AG has to date registered more than 750 patents.

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