Brose China wins innovation award for technological progress

President Brose China, Xu Baoping (right) accepts the award from Zhu Haixia, editor-in-chief of the "Automobile & Parts" magazine in the Shanghai World Financial Center.

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The Chinese trade journal "Automobile & Parts" has honored Brose China (Shanghai) with the "Innovation Award for Technology on Auto Parts Low-carbon Economy and Harmonious Society". The supplier received the award in the category "Lightweight technology" for its plastic door system made out of long glass fiber reinforced polypropylene. This module achieves weight savings of up to 5 kilograms compared with traditional variants and thus contributes to protecting our climate.

The innovation award was presented to a total of 29 suppliers. The business magazine honored companies whose products have made a major contribution to the sustainable development of the Chinese automobile industry. Background: owing to its rapidly expanding automotive market, China faces new challenges such as increasing vehicle emissions, less road safety as well as an increasingly difficult fuel supply situation. For this reason, "Automobile & Parts" sees the future for the local automobile industry in technical innovations regarding lightweight construction and safety technology as well as alternative drives.

"Weight reduction has been one of the key issues in the development of our systems and components for decades," says Manfred Frei, Head of Development Asia. Using new materials as well as improved function integration, Brose has succeeded in reducing the weight of its door, closure and seat systems by up to 50%. "This award confirms that we

are on the right track and is proof of our expertise in the field of lightweight construction," states Frei.

Plastic door systems made out of long glass fiber reinforced polypropylene

"Our award-winning plastic door system is just one example of reducing both weight and cost by applying new materials and manufacturing methods," continues Frei. The new material allows the integration of window regulator rails, inner handles, loudspeaker frames, fixing elements for cables and other components in the module carrier. Fitted with the Brose Unilatch side door lock (installation space reduced by 60% and weight by 30%) and a lighter window regulator drive (more than 30% less weight compared with standard components due to a new material design) up to five kilograms in weight can be saved per vehicle. At the same time, the plastic door system fulfills all international safety requirements in side crash tests.