

## Continental UltraContact – durability in rubber

- **New summer tire for end users and car fleets**
- **Suitable for use in electric cars and conventional drive cars**
- **Tires designed for new consumer expectations**

Hanover, January 2022. With the new UltraContact, a summer tire for fleets and end customers, Continental is taking to the trends of the changing mobile society. What they have in common is the call for more sustainability, including in tires. This approach is not only resource-saving, but also very cost-effective – because a tire that combines long service life and robust design also saves on purchase costs.

The experts at Continental know that younger drivers today, particularly those 18-25, want personal mobility just as much as older people. However, the younger generation's focus is more on personal mobility than on car ownership as such. This means there's more demand for car sharing and rental cars. The vehicles will spend much more time on the road – in urban areas and long distance traffic. This means their tires must have a long service life and be extremely robust. According to surveys, the demand for the greatest possible safety is still the most important criterion in questions about tire characteristics.

Another equally important trend is rapidly increasing electric mobility. In 2019, the number of electric vehicles sold worldwide topped two million for the first time. Experts expect approximately 14 million of these vehicles to be sold annually by 2025. Vehicle manufacturers are responding with a large number of new models. By 2030, global new registrations of cars with electric drives are expected to reach 25 million a year (Statista.com). Vehicles like these are normally equipped with quiet tires, as rolling noise is much more noticeable than in cars with combustion engines.

With the new UltraContact, a summer tire is now available with long service life, robustness and low driving noise tailored to the needs of fleet operators and end users, and also well suited to electric vehicles. This is also shown by the classifications on the EU tire label. It is on the highest level for wet braking distance with a grade of "A," and ranks second out of five in rolling resistance with a grade of "B." For noise emission, it is classified "A" or "B."

The new tire is primarily intended for markets where seasonal tires are not the norm. It will be available from spring 2022. There are already 100 items in the product range this year, with more to come next year. The UltraContact is produced for rims between 14 and 20 inches, in widths between 155 and 245 millimeters, with cross sections between 80 and 40 percent. Depending on the dimension, the approvals are between 190 and 300 km/h. Various tires are available with increased load capacity.

**Continental** develops pioneering technologies and services for sustainable and connected mobility of people and their goods. Founded in 1871, the technology company offers safe, efficient, intelligent and affordable solutions for vehicles, machines, traffic and transportation. In 2020, Continental generated sales of €37.7 billion and currently employs more than 192,000 people in 58 countries and markets. On October 8, 2021, the company celebrated its 150th anniversary.

The **Tires group sector** has 24 production and development locations worldwide. Continental is one of the leading tire manufacturers with more than 56,000 employees and posted sales of €10.2 billion in 2020 in this group sector. Continental ranks among the technology leaders in tire production and offers a broad product range for passenger cars, commercial and special-purpose vehicles as well as two-wheelers. Through continuous investment in research and development, Continental makes a major contribution to safe, cost effective and ecologically efficient mobility. The portfolio of the tire business includes services for the tire trade and fleet applications, as well as digital management systems for tires.

### Press contact

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Klaus Engelhart  
PR spokesperson for Passenger and Light Truck / Two-Wheeled Vehicle Tires,  
Germany/Austria/Switzerland  
Communications / PR  
Passenger and Light Truck Tires  
Continental Reifen Deutschland GmbH  
Phone: + 49 (0) 511 938 22 85  
E-mail: klaus.engelhart@conti.de

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