**Hankook Kinergy 4S all-season tyre:**

**365 days of balanced performance for Europe’s roads**

**With the Kinergy 4S, tyre maker Hankook offers an all-weather specialist developed for European road conditions. Representing the fourth generation of all-season tyres from Hankook, the Kinergy 4S is geared toward continuing to offer drivers in Europe an alternative that features balanced performance and safety through all seasons, including climate change and future legal requirements. The tyre’s asymmetrical tread combines summer properties related to performance and safety on its block-tread outer side and tested suitability for winter conditions on the inner side, which features 3D sipes. The Kinergy 4S is offered in many popular sizes from 14 to 18 inches and is available as original equipment on the Audi Models TT, A1 and A4.**

***Neu-Isenburg, Germany, 24 May 2017*** – Premium With the Kinergy 4S (4S - Four Seasons) all-season tyre, premium maker Hankook is continuing to gear its activities toward quality-conscious, ecology-minded drivers who prefer not to change their tyres every six months, but do not want to – or have to – go without balanced performance and safety. The Kinergy 4S is distinguished by its especially harmonious performance features across all seasons. This makes the tyre an attractive alternative when it comes to ensuring legally compliant year-round mobility as weather conditions in Europe become increasingly changeable. The tyre can be used all year round even in countries with seasonal winter tyre requirements, as it bears the M+S and snowflake symbols (which will be required for winter tyres in Europe, as elsewhere, starting in 2018).

A true all-weather specialist, the Kinergy 4S combines the advantages of a summer tyre – short braking distances and good driving characteristics on both wet and dry surfaces at higher temperatures – with the benefits of a winter tyre, especially in the areas of traction and braking performance under cold conditions or with moderate snowfall. With their asymmetrical tread configuration, the current generation of Hankook all-season tyres adopts major design elements from its successful predecessor type, but the tyres have been fully redesigned, as the name also indicates.

The “summer shoulder” of the Kinergy 4S has been given a larger block structure in combination with stepped tie bars between the blocks, aligning it in particular to the more stringent requirements that apply when driving in dry conditions at higher temperatures. Its five-rib tread design also offers excellent stability. Special summer sipes on the outer tread blocks deliver better steering precision even when driving briskly on a dry surface. At the same time, the extra-wide belt package and highly dispersed silica tread compound for maximum bonding of silica and rubber make the tyre especially durable and reduce wear, extending the tyre’s lifespan and boosting cost-effectiveness. In combination with four main grooves of which the outer one comes in slanted design, this ensures optimum drainage, shedding water (or even slush) from the tread with high efficiency and effectively guarding against hydro- or slush planning.

The tyre’s inner tread has a winter design, with a higher number of sipes and blocks providing secure braking abilities in fall or winter weather conditions. An optimised tread surface with V-shaped crosswise grooves also enables controlled handling on snowy roads. Winter tread wear indicators incorporated into the tread grooves at regular intervals also make it quick and easy for drivers to check whether the tread meets the minimum depth requirements for winter tyres.

Hankook is one of the first manufacturers to have recognised the potential of all-season tyres for the European market, and has been deliberately advancing its development efforts in this segment since the 1990s. The model that preceded the Kinergy 4S, the highly successful Optimo 4S was already granted the coveted German Federal Environment Agency (UBA) Blue Angel for environmentally friendly driving back in 2008 in recognition of its excellent safety and performance features combined with outstanding fuel efficiency.

“In developing our all-season tyre, we focused on achieving a further improved combination of crucial winter and summer features in a single tyre in order to offer drivers a high-quality alternative to regular summer and winter tyre changes. With its balanced design, the Hankook Kinergy 4S can be a real alternative when it comes to staying mobile all year round – safely, legally, and without a lot of fuss. This is especially true in areas that tend to get less snow and have a more moderate climate, but also for example in urban settings,” explains Gangseung (“Tony”) Lee, Hankook’s Vice President of Marketing and Sales for Europe.

The Hankook Kinergy 4S line-up includes 45 sizes ranging from 14 to 18 inches in series 70 to 40 and tread widths from 135 to 255 in T, H, V and W ratings and in some cases also as extra load.

From the second half of 2017 the line-up will be expanded to 13-18 inches in series 80 to 40 and tread widths from 135-255mm.

*\* Kontrol Technology*

*Derived from the terms Kinetic and Control, Hankook Tire Kontrol Technology reflects the best possible controllability of the interaction between the driver, the car and the road through the tyres while driving. Kontrol Technology was developed to provide drivers with all of the advantages of the newest Hankook tyre technology that is currently available in the areas of safety, handling, comfort and environmental compatibility.*



**Technical characteristics of the Hankook Kinergy 4S:**



*1. Improved combination of summer and winter properties*:

* Two differently designed types of sipes provide improved winter performance on the inner side (blue) and strong summer performance (green) on dry and wet surfaces on the tyre’s outer side at the same time.
* Hankook’s 3D sipe system to enhance block stiffness provides optimum support for driving even under tough road conditions, and reduces wear.

*2. Improved wet grip and a reduced wear:*

* A highly dispersed Nano Silica mixture enables more even molecular bonding for improved performance on wet roads, a reduced wear and an improved rolling resistance (4 per cent shorter wet braking distance).



*3. Optimised tyre structure for a 6 per cent improved wet/dry handling*

 *and lateral stability:*

- The wide tread belt package in combination with a jointless full cover reinforced belt and a high hardness bead filler provide improved handling, lateral stability and steering response for an overall more precise driving in summer.



*4. Safe driving in winter:*

* Ice axe inspired V-shaped lateral groves offer effective driving and cornering capabilities on both icy and snowy roads.
* A larger number of tread blocks with a wider design, combined with highly dense self locking sipes, increases the contact area between the sipe and the road, giving the tyre better grip on road surfaces under winter conditions (10 per cent shorter snow braking distance) and an increased traction.

*5. Line-up:*

- The Hankook Kinergy 4S line-up will initially include 45 sizes ranging from 14 to 18 inches in series 70 to 40 and tread widths from 135 to 255 mm in T, H, V and W speed ratings, partially also as extra load versions (XL). From the second half of 2017 the line-up will be expanded to 13-18 inches in series 80 to 40 and tread width from 135-255mm.

**About Hankook Tire**

Hankook Tire is one of the global top 5 companies in the mass production of tyres and manufactures innovative, award winning radial tyres of proven superior quality for passenger cars, light trucks, SUVs, RVs, trucks, and buses as well as motorsports (circuit racing/rallies).

Aspiring to bring consumers the utmost excellence in product quality, technological excellence and driving satisfaction, Hankook Tire continuously invests in research and development maintaining five R&D centers and seven production facilities around the world. Bespoke tyre solutions for the European markets as well as European Original Equipment according to the requirements of leading premium car manufacturers, are developed in the company’s regional Technical Centre in Hanover/Germany. Production for the European region is taking place in the state-of-the-art manufacturing site in Rácalmás/Hungary which was inaugurated in June 2007 and is continuously being expanded. Currently more than 3,000 employees produce up to 19 million tyres a year for passenger cars, SUVs and light trucks.

Hankook Tire’s European headquarters are located in Neu-Isenburg near Frankfurt am Main in Germany. The manufacturer operates further branches in Germany, UK, France, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, Hungary, Czech Republic, Russia, Turkey, Sweden and Poland. Hankook products are sold directly through regional distributors in other local markets. Hankook Tire employs more than 22,000 people worldwide and are selling their products in over 180 countries. Internationally leading car manufacturers rely on tyres made by Hankook for their original equipment. Approximately 30 percent of the company's global sales are generated within the European and CIS-Region.

For more information please visit [www.hankooktire-mediacenter.com](http://www.hankooktire-mediacenter.com/) or [www.hankooktire.com](http://www.hankooktire.com)

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