**Hankook Tire Partners with ARLANXEO**

**for joint Tire Technology Development**

**Hankook Tire and ARLANXEO agree on R&D partnership to develop new synthetic rubber grades and technologies for Premium-performance tires. The partnership reflects Hankook Tire’s continuous R&D efforts to strengthen its tech leadership.**

***Seoul, Korea / Neu-Isenburg, Germany, May 28, 2018*** – Premium tire maker Hankook Tire signed a second memorandum of understanding (MOU) with ARLANXEO, the world’s largest synthetic rubber producer, to co-develop synthetic rubber technologies for high-performance tires. Under this agreement, the two companies will jointly study the development of new high-performance synthetic rubber grades and applications, which will increase the performance of tires from early stages of product development.

Partnership between Hankook Tire and ARLANXEO, a joint venture of LANXESS and Saudi Aramco, started in 2008, with the supply of raw materials such as solution styrene butadiene rubber (S-SBR) and neodymium performance butadiene rubber (Nd-PBR). In 2014 the first MOU was signed to expand and collaborate on the development of core synthetic rubber solutions for high-performance tires.

This form of technical partnership represents part of Hankook Tire’s continued R&D efforts. Coupled with the company’s continuous investment in Hankook Technodome, a state-of-the-art research and development center located in Korea, this additional R&D effort is expected to accelerate Hankook Tire’s pursuit to further advance its technological prowess beyond competition.

Hyung Nam Kim, CTO of Hankook Tire, said, “Continuous R&D efforts and investments were made to further solidify Hankook Tire’s position as a global top tier company. The strong relationship with ARLANXEO has been great, and will continue to result in great technological advancement between the two companies.”

Jorge Nogueira, ARLANXEO CEO said, "This new agreement strengthens our long-standing trustful co-operation with Hankook Tire. As before we will continue to assist Hankook Tire as a reliable partner to develop its market position as key global tire maker with innovative high-quality products. "

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**About Hankook Tire**

Hankook Tire manufactures globally 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 centres and eight 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 around 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 Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, UK and Ukraine. Hankook products are sold directly through regional distributors in other local markets. Hankook Tire employs approximately 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. Hankook Tire has been represented in the renowned Dow Jones Sustainability Index World (DJSI World) since 2016.

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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| **Contact:****Hankook Tire Europe GmbH |** Corporate Communications Europe/CIS **|** Siemensstr. 14, 63263 Neu-Isenburg **|** Germany |
| **Felix Kinzer**Directortel.: +49 (0) 61 02 8149 – 170f.kinzer@hankookreifen.de | **Sabine Riedel**PR Managertel.: +49 (0) 6102 8149 – 174s.riedel@hankookreifen.de |  |  |