**Press release**

**Hankook and Vaculug partner up for Hankook’s retreading business in UK and Ireland**

* **Hankook’s Alphatread retread brand will be manufactured by Vaculug**
* **Five year contract ensures consistent supply and quality for Hankook’s customers**
* **Sustainable initiative to increase tyre life and avoid unnecessary waste**

**Daventry, UK, 24 May 2022** – Hankook continues to focus on its significant retreading business for commercial vehicle tyres by expanding its own retread brand “Hankook Alphatread”. Together with Vaculug, Hankook has signed a five-year agreement today. Vaculug, one of Europe’s largest independent retread producers, will manufacture Hankook’s Alphatread retread brand in the UK. Vaculug will also work with Hankook product as a premium fitment for all its fleets.

“To offer our fleet and dealer partners a cost effective and ecological solution, Hankook continuously invests in its range and volumes of production of premium Alphatread hot-cured tyres. Our new partnership with Vaculug will support our mission to offer attractive and sustainable products. This new agreement also ensures maximum value for our fleet customers,” says Guy Heywood, Vice President Marketing Truck and Bus tyres, Hankook Tire Europe.

On behalf of Vaculug, Jorge Crespo, Managing Director, commented “We are very proud of our association with Hankook and look forward to growing this relationship to new heights. While this agreement is only for an initial period of five years, we as a family have had a relationship with Hankook that goes back over four decades. We look forward to building on that partnership where the next generation of both Vaculug and Hankook help the environment through more sustainable initiatives such as this one.”

The Hankook SmartLife Solutions concept demonstrates the advantages of a hot retread for fleet companies. All Hankook commercial vehicle tyres are designed in such a way that they can be regrooved, while the high-quality carcass can be retreaded several times. These features allow fleet companies to be able to achieve significant economic benefits: 5-9 mm of additional base rubber under the tread delivers up to 25% more mileage after regrooving. Hankook Alphatread hot retreads can deliver up to 100% of the mileage achieved with a new tyre and equivalent performance for around 60% of the cost. If the regrooving and retreading process is continued in line with the Hankook SmartLife Solutions concept, the service life of a new tyre can be increased to 250%. As well as these financial benefits, there are also various benefits for the environment. One of them is the fact that around 70% of the raw materials used in new tyres can be saved during retreading.

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**About Hankook**

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 several European countries and sells its products through regional distributors in other local markets. Hankook Tire employs approximately 20,000 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 34 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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