

News Release

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A commitment to actively shaping the future characterizes the Automotive Color Trends 2019-20

- **Collection “ACT/9” reflects dynamic approach on future challenges**
- **Large variety around the topic of silver and diverse chromatic color schemes**
- **Complex metallics in the beige and gold color space underline optimism in EMEA**

ACT/9, the title of the Automotive Color Trends 2019-20, is a demand to shape the future with an active attitude. By analyzing technological trends and societal changes, the designers at BASF’s Coatings division translated this drive into a collection of future color inspirations for automotive surfaces. Four design studios from North America, Europe, Middle East, Africa and Asia Pacific worked within this collaboration. The focus on these regions creates a profound understanding of the respective markets and its color drivers.

The global color trends mirror the positive commitment towards connecting digital innovations with human needs. The increasing relevance of digitalization underlines the acceptance of computer-based support. A decisive rethinking of resources is molding new product landscapes and consumption patterns.

A diverse range of colors signposts openness to digital progress

Multiple hues and distinctly different levels of chroma characterize the open-minded attitudes to advances in digitalization. Digital support is now seen as a natural part of life and its influence continues to grow. The coloration of future mobility, therefore, needs to take on a warmer and more approachable look. Atypical automotive color

positions like yellowish off-tones and complex goldish metals comply with these directions.

Varieties of metallics mirror consumer commitment to societal change

The color trends reflect designers' observations of an increasing desire to make essential changes. This impacts not only general consumption patterns and behaviors but also personal objectives. Since lifelong jobs are rare for many younger people, straight biographies are superseded by multifaceted life styles – what is now referred to as the “slash” generation. This requires flexible attitudes towards mobility patterns. The attitude of the slash generation is geared towards flexibility and creativity, offering the right balance between work and leisure. This interplay is captured through a series of metallics and solid colors ranging from light to dark shades.

In addition, numerous consumer and industry driven initiatives promote the profound rethinking of material life cycles. The designers of BASF's Coatings division transform these impulses into innovative color concepts combining the aesthetic with sustainable solutions.

EMEA – Defining new standards

The immensely positive vibe is an indication for the upcoming changes of societal conventions in EMEA, in which unique color positions like violet metallic can become more common. One of the facets emphasizing this optimism is the continuously increasing importance of individuality for design concepts which is reflected in complex metallics in the beige and gold color space. Another aspect of life in in this region is the exploration of human needs in the context of increasingly automated mobility. Therefore, a selection of colors in EMEA are characterized by an artificial look which deletes effects but adds functionality. This also underlines the approach to pursue progressive ideas.

Asia-Pacific – Awareness for a new scope of action introduces a balanced palette of warm colors

The spirit of multi-faceted life concepts manifests in the awareness of a new scope of action in Asian urban societies. Tradition fuses with new impulses of sustainable production and introduces a balanced palette of warm colors with calm, saturated flops. Moreover, these hues also go beyond the stereotype look of shades and surfaces, with fresh whitish silvers and more complex warm color spaces.

While the technology-friendly mindset in Asia-Pacific favors bright floating colors such as silky neutral metallics and blues with a slight color shift, the more emotional face of future automotive technology reveals itself in dark, raw vital colors such as coarse gray metallic or sensual purple. All in all, Asia Pacific's modest and familiar color ranges make visionary automotive concepts more applicable.

North America – Color changing hues reflect digital and lifestyle trends

The continued fascination with technology in North America, coupled with an engaging and novel approach to ownership and co-creation, results in a change in the color palette from previous years, manifesting in a more pronounced flip-flop effect in varying hues rather than lightness/darkness. There is also a softening of the overall texture of the metallic effect. The new look to color travel comprises the emergent understanding of human interactions with machines, the mind-body duality, and the conflation of the conscious with the subconscious. There's also the continued emphasis on the marriage of functionality with the aesthetic. Whether it's creating a broad selection of colors to facilitate the engineering requirements of future transportation or a focus on using colorants and products from eco-friendly sources, the region's designs are tied to expectations of performance and novelty.

Color expertise of the Coatings division

Every year the designers of BASF's Coatings division translate their findings and predictions of technological and societal change into a collection that will influence automotive colors three to five years into the future. They undergo intensive research into future trends which they use as foundation for the development of surface, texture and color positions. As a result, the designers present global trends and developments within the regions of Europe, the Middle East and Africa (EMEA), Asia Pacific (AP) and North America (NA).

About BASF's Coatings division

The Coatings division of BASF is a global expert in the development, production and marketing of innovative and sustainable automotive OEM and refinish coatings, decorative paints as well as applied surface treatments for metal, plastic and glass substrates in a wide range of industries. The portfolio is completed by the "Innovation Beyond Paint" program which aims at developing new markets and businesses. We create advanced performance solutions and drive performance, design and new applications to meet our partners' needs all over the world. BASF shares skills, knowledge and resources of interdisciplinary and global teams for the benefit of customers by operating a

collaborative network of sites in Europe, North America, South America and Asia Pacific. In 2018, the Coatings division achieved global sales of about €3.86 billion.

Solutions beyond your imagination – Coatings by BASF. For more information about the Coatings division of BASF and its products, visit www.basf-coatings.com.

About BASF

At BASF, we create chemistry for a sustainable future. We combine economic success with environmental protection and social responsibility. The approximately 122,000 employees in the BASF Group work on contributing to the success of our customers in nearly all sectors and almost every country in the world. Our portfolio is organized into six segments: Chemicals, Materials, Industrial Solutions, Surface Technologies, Nutrition & Care and Agricultural Solutions. BASF generated sales of around €63 billion in 2018. BASF shares are traded on the stock exchange in Frankfurt (BAS) and as American Depositary Receipts (BASFY) in the U.S. Further information at www.basf.com.