

## Symbio and Schaeffler join forces to create *Innoplata*, a new joint venture to produce fuel cell bipolar plates

- Symbio, a Faurecia and Michelin hydrogen company, and Schaeffler Group, to establish *Innoplata*, a global joint venture (JV) to produce fuel cell bipolar plates (BPP), a strategic fuel cell component
- JV and first plant to be located in Haguenau, France, with JV targeting to produce c.50 million bipolar plates and employ more than 120 people by 2030
- JV first customer will be Symbio, which has been nominated for a project by a major global auto Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM)

June 7, 2022 – Symbio, a Michelin and Faurecia hydrogen company, and Schaeffler signed an agreement for the creation of a 50:50 joint venture to produce fuel cell bipolar plates for global mobility and energy solutions. The JV will be located in Haguenau, in the Alsace region, France. It will combine the know-how of leading European automotive suppliers and a global leader in automotive fuel cell technology who together see vast potential in the developing hydrogen economy. It will also build a Franco-German partnership aiming at strengthening the European hydrogen mobility value chain.

The company, which will be operational under the brand name *Innoplata* by the end of the year will accelerate the production of next generation BPP for the entire proton exchange membrane (PEM) fuel cell market, thus enhancing performance, capacity, and cost competitiveness for its customers. The joint venture is expected to be established by the end of 2022, subject to customary conditions precedent such as applicable merger control clearances.

### **JV will industrialize production of fuel cell bipolar plates at large scale and create more than 120 qualified jobs in France**

Start of production of the JV is planned for early 2024. The production unit will be located in Haguenau, France, and will have an initial capacity of 4 million BPP per year, aiming at producing annually around 50 million BPP globally and employing more than 120 people by 2030. The site will embody highest sustainability standards and will target net zero-emission operations.

*Innoplata* will enable and accelerate the mass-production of next generation BPP with Symbio and Schaeffler being the JV's exclusive customers. Symbio has received a first major nomination for their fuel cell system from a leading automotive OEM and plans to use the JV to supply the BPP for this program.

**SCHAEFFLER**



**FORVIA**  
faurecia



Symbio has over 30 years of cumulated experience in developing fuel cell systems and offers a complete range of compact StackPacks®, pre-validated and pre-integrated hydrogen systems that meet all requirements in terms of power and durability for zero-emission mobility.

Schaeffler, a leading global supplier to the automotive and industrial sectors, has high expertise in precise forming and stamping technologies, and a deep process know-how for large scale production of metallic bipolar plates. Within Schaeffler these are being used for electrolyzers for the production of hydrogen and as a key element of fuel cell stacks for all types of mobile and stationary fuel cell applications. Schaeffler's high level of vertical integration in the area of forming, as well as highly sophisticated coating processes, form the basis for its deep process know-how for large scale production of BPP.

“Metallic fuel cell bipolar plates are a strategic high added value component of the fuel cell system. Innoplate will be instrumental to secure serial production capability underpinning our customers' programs and the Hydrogen mobility market uptake, while accelerating enhanced system performance and an effective step-up in cost competitiveness of our solutions. Furthermore, it is testimonial of Symbio's engagement to build technological and industrial leadership in Europe,” says Philippe Rosier, CEO of Symbio.

“We believe that hydrogen will play a vital role in enabling clean mobility in the future. The establishment of a hydrogen economy and the transition to sustainable energy resources will largely depend on the industrialization of reliable supply chains for the new technologies. Our Joint Venture with Symbio is a great example for this approach. As a global company that is headquartered in Germany, we are also very happy to partner with Symbio in France and foster the Franco-German cooperation in this important area. The JV allows a fast market entry for Schaeffler in partnership with a leading fuel cell supplier,” says Klaus Rosenfeld, CEO of Schaeffler.

“At FORVIA, we are well placed to know that the collaboration between two major Franco-German companies is a powerful driver to achieve excellence. Our convictions in fuel cells are solid and constant: hydrogen is a central matter for the mobility of tomorrow. Together, Symbio and Schaeffler are putting their complementary know-how at the service of Innoplate to create a key player in hydrogen mobility,” says Patrick Koller, CEO of Faurecia, company of the Group FORVIA.

“This strategic move between Schaeffler and Symbio will foster the development of hydrogen mobility at a faster pace. It will undoubtedly strengthen Symbio's capacity to become a worldwide fuel cell system leader by 2030. At Michelin we strongly believe that Paneuropean collaboration is an excellent way for European industrial players to stay at the forefront of strategic technologies. This Franco-German alliance demonstrates it perfectly,” says Florent Menegaux, CEO of Michelin.

**About Symbio**

Symbio, a Faurecia & Michelin joint venture, is a global hydrogen fuel cell technology partner to OEMs and sustainable mobility decision makers, with unique expertise and focus on setting automotive production standards. The company offers a complete range of fuel cell power products - StackPacks®, for different transportation needs including light duty commercial vehicles, buses and trucks and various formats of electric vehicles. Symbio is the fuel cell strategic partner of a leading global OEM that is launching a first-of-its-kind Hydrogen-powered LCV program in Europe. Its ambition is to become a world-wide leader in hydrogen zero-emission mobility, having a global industrial footprint and an annual production capacity of 200,000 StackPacks® by 2030, for use by vehicle manufacturers and hydrogen-stationary applications around the world. [www.symbio.one](http://www.symbio.one)

**About Schaeffler Group – We pioneer motion**

As a leading global supplier to the automotive and industrial sectors, the Schaeffler Group has been driving forward groundbreaking inventions and developments in the fields of motion and mobility for over 75 years. With innovative technologies, products, and services for electric mobility, CO<sub>2</sub>-efficient drives, Industry 4.0, digitalization, and renewable energies, the company is a reliable partner for making motion and mobility more efficient, intelligent, and sustainable. The technology company manufactures high-precision components and systems for powertrain and chassis applications as well as rolling and plain bearing solutions for a large number of industrial applications. The Schaeffler Group generated sales of approximately EUR 13.9 billion in 2021. With around 83,000 employees, Schaeffler is one of the world's largest family companies. With more than 1,800 patent applications in 2021, Schaeffler is Germany's third most innovative company according to the DPMA (German Patent and Trademark Office). [www.schaeffler.com](http://www.schaeffler.com)

**About FORVIA**

FORVIA comprises the complementary technology and industrial strengths of Faurecia and HELLA. With over 300 industrial sites and 77 R&D centers, 150,000 people, including more than 35,000 engineers across 40+ countries, FORVIA provides a unique and comprehensive approach to the automotive challenges of today and tomorrow. Composed of 6 business groups with 24 product lines, and a strong IP portfolio of over 14,000 patents, FORVIA is focused on becoming the preferred innovation and integration partner for OEMs worldwide. FORVIA aims to be a change maker committed to foreseeing and making the mobility transformation happen. [www.forvia.com](http://www.forvia.com)

**About MICHELIN**

Michelin, the leading mobility company, is dedicated to enhancing its clients' mobility, sustainably; designing and distributing the most suitable tires, services and solutions for its clients' needs; providing digital services, maps and guides to help enrich trips and travels and make them unique experiences; and developing high-technology materials that serve a variety of industries. Headquartered in Clermont-Ferrand, France, Michelin is present in 177 countries, has 124,760 employees and operates 68 tire production facilities which together produced around 173 million tires in 2021. [www.michelin.com](http://www.michelin.com)

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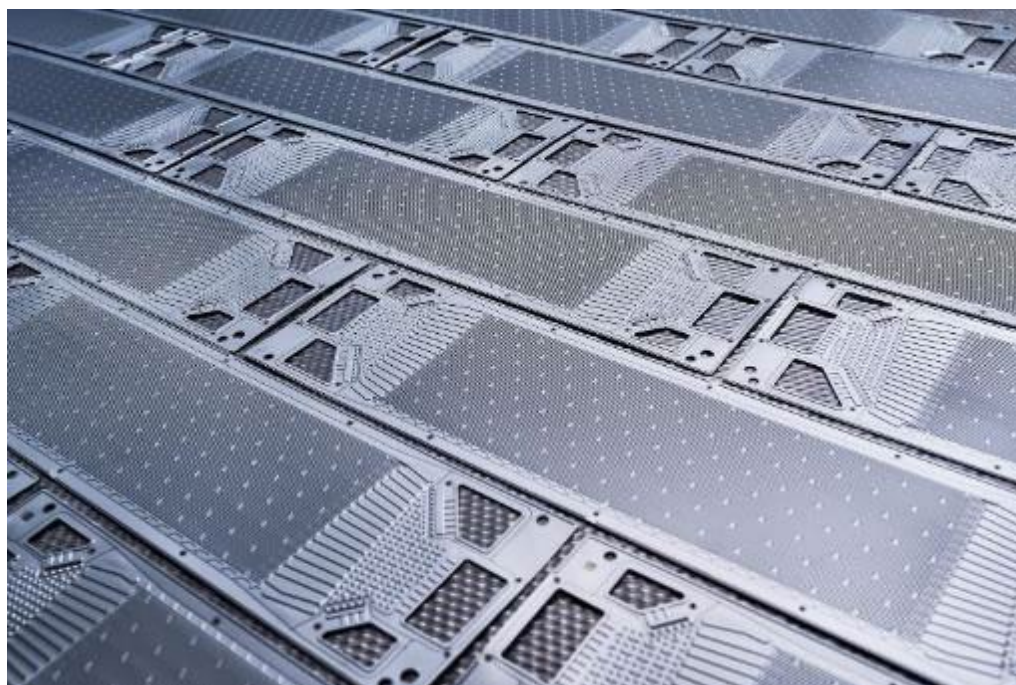
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*The newly established company Innoplate will accelerate the production of next generation bipolar plates (BPP) for the entire proton exchange membrane (PEM) fuel cell market. By 2030 the joint venture aims at producing around 50 million BPP annually, employing more than 120 people. (Photo: Schaeffler)*



*Metallic bipolar plates are a key element of fuel cell stacks. (Photo: Schaeffler)*