

Continental is the First Manufacturer to Launch a Series Tyre With a Very High Share of Sustainable Materials

- **UltraContact NXT is made of up to 65 percent share of renewable, recycled and ISCC PLUS mass balance certified materials**
- **All 19 sizes feature the highest EU tyre label rating in rolling resistance, wet braking, and exterior noise**
- **Ferdinand Hoyos, Head of Business Area Replacement Tires EMEA: “At Continental, safety, performance, and sustainability go hand in hand. With the UltraContact NXT we deliver on our ambitious sustainability goals.”**

Today Continental presented its most sustainable series tyre to date - the UltraContact NXT. With up to 65 percent renewable, recycled and mass balance certified materials it combines a high share of sustainable materials with maximum safety and performance. Continental is the first manufacturer to launch a volume production tyre with both a high share of sustainable materials and maximum EU tyre-label performance. All of the 19 sizes available will carry the highest possible rating (“A”) on the EU tyre label in rolling resistance, wet braking, and exterior noise. The UltraContact NXT will be available from tyre retailers in Europe, including the UK and Ireland, this July.

“At Continental, safety, performance, and sustainability go hand in hand. With the UltraContact NXT, we deliver on our ambitious sustainability goals. This development represents a significant leap forward and demonstrates our technological leadership as well as our strong commitment to both sustainability and safety,” says Ferdinand Hoyos, Head of Continental’s Business Area Replacement Tires EMEA. He adds: “With its impressive performance, the UltraContact NXT pushes sustainability to the NXT level.”

Depending on the tyre size, the UltraContact NXT is made from up to 65 percent renewable, recycled and mass balance certified materials. Renewable materials make up to 32 percent of the tyre, the proportion of recycled materials is up to five percent, and Continental has sourced up to 28 percent ISCC PLUS mass balance approach certified materials from bio, bio-circular and/or circular feedstock.

Renewable materials include bio-based silica made from agricultural waste

Renewable materials account for up to 32 percent of the UltraContact NXT. This includes resins based on residual materials from the paper and wood industries. Used in tyres, resins allow highly flexible compounds to improve the material's grip. The UltraContact NXT contains silicate from the ash of rice husks. Rice husks are an agricultural waste product which may be processed into silica through a new, less energy consuming process. Silica helps to optimise characteristics such as grip, rolling resistance and tyre life. As in every tyre, natural rubber is a key material of the UltraContact NXT. It remains indispensable as it ensures the highest tyre performance properties due to its elevated level of strength and durability.

“Contains recycled materials” logo underlines the use of recycled materials

The special logo “contains recycled materials” on the sidewall of the UltraContact NXT underlines the use of recycled materials in this tyre line. The share of recycled material stands at up to five percent. It includes recycled rubber material, which comes from mechanically processed end-of-life tyres. In addition, Continental is using recycled steel in the UltraContact NXT. The previously presented innovative ContiRe.Tex technology has also been adopted for the UltraContact NXT. It generates high-performance polyester fibres that are used to reinforce the tyre carcass through recycling PET bottles, which otherwise would have ended up in incinerators or landfills. With the ContiRe.Tex technology, Continental has developed a more energy-efficient and eco-friendly alternative that allows it to recycle between nine and fifteen plastic bottles for each tyre, depending on the tyre size. Continental is aiming for fully circular operations in its tyre production by 2050 at the latest.

Mass balance certified materials include sustainable synthetic rubber and carbon black

For the UltraContact NXT, Continental uses up to 28 percent ISCC PLUS mass balance certified materials. These are sustainable synthetic rubber and carbon black made from biobased, bio-circular and/or circular feedstock. Synthetic rubber is a performance-defining ingredient of modern passenger car tyres as its properties can be engineered specifically for its application. Carbon black is used in rubber compounds to optimise stability, strength, and durability of tyres. The ISCC PLUS certified balance mechanism ensures transparency and traceability throughout the supply chain by tracking the origin and characteristics of raw materials, verifying compliance with sustainable criteria, and certifying the resulting products.

Systematically moving towards greater sustainability

Continental is working tirelessly to advance innovative technologies and sustainable products and services throughout its entire value chain, from sourcing sustainable materials to recycling end-of-life tyres. By 2030 the premium tyre manufacturer aims to have over 40 percent renewable and recycled content in all its newly produced tyres. Continental continues its drive towards 100 percent sustainable materials in all its tyre products by 2050 at the latest. The UltraContact NXT is an important step towards fulfilling these ambitious sustainability goals and to becoming the most progressive tyre manufacturer as laid out in its Vision 2030 strategy programme.

Available for various car models of all drive types

The UltraContact NXT is an extension of the successful UltraContact family, which was launched by Continental in 2022. The 19 sizes will replace the existing respective dimensions of the UltraContact. Continental will gradually launch the UltraContact NXT in Europe. The first sizes will be available for tyre retailers in Europe, including the UK and Ireland, this July. The UltraContact NXT was designed for both electric and combustion engines, offering the highest label efficiency and optimum mileage performance. Continental's most sustainable series tyre to date therefore bears the EV Compatible logo and will be available for various popular vehicles like the Kia Niro, VW ID.3, Mercedes-Benz EQA, Tesla Model 3, Audi Q4 E-TRON, Skoda Octavia, VW Golf 8, Audi A3 and many more.

Continental develops pioneering technologies and services for sustainable and connected mobility of people and their goods. Founded in 1871, the technology company offers safe, efficient, intelligent and affordable solutions for vehicles, machines, traffic and transportation. In 2022, Continental generated sales of €39.4 billion and currently employs around 200,000 people in 57 countries and markets.

The **Tires group sector** has 24 production and development locations worldwide. Continental is one of the leading tyre manufacturers with 57,000 employees and posted sales of €14 billion in 2022 in this group sector. Continental ranks among the technology leaders in tyre production and offers a broad product range for passenger cars, commercial and special-purpose vehicles as well as two-wheelers. Through continuous investment in research and development, Continental makes a major contribution to safe, cost effective and ecologically efficient mobility. The portfolio of the tyre business includes services for the tyre trade and fleet applications, as well as digital management systems for tyres.

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