

News Release

Hyundai Motor Group Develops World's First Performance Control for Commercial EVs with Weight Estimation

- Sensors estimate the gross weight of light duty commercial EVs while driving to improve fuel efficiency
- The technology enables EV to accurately estimate range and modify torque output based on gross vehicle weight

Seoul May 28, 2019 – Hyundai Motor Group revealed a system that estimates the gross vehicle weight of a light duty commercial electric vehicle and optimizes performance accordingly. The development of the system is a first-ever for the industry, utilizing acceleration sensors to optimize the vehicle's settings based on current gross weight estimate. This technology is being considered by Hyundai Motor Group for use on future light duty electric commercial vehicles.

The ability to calculate the gross weight of a vehicle on the move means that an electric vehicle's torque output can be optimized to maximize estimated remaining range. This reduces potential wheel spin and reduced traction when a vehicle is carrying less payload, increasing commercial efficiency. The new technology also allows for changes in torque output based on topography, altering the amount of torque needed to propel a vehicle uphill based on its gross weight and allowing small business owners to effectively reduce unnecessary vehicle-related costs.

“Hyundai developed this technology because we realize that we need to take a different approach when it comes to developing electric vehicles for commercial use,” said Chae Mo Yang, Group Leader of Eco-Technology Performance Development Group. “We are preparing for a future where we will be able to offer commercial EVs that operate at its optimum specifications under any given road condition and regardless of how much payload it is carrying. These vehicles will be very economical to operate.”

Price competitiveness is key to the success of future electric light duty commercial vehicles for small business owners. Keeping this in mind, Hyundai Motor Group developed the gross weight estimation technology by utilizing acceleration sensors instead of weight sensors; developing the technology in this manner means that it can be applied to a vehicle not equipped with a costly air suspension system.

Using acceleration sensors, gross weight is estimated through Newton's law of acceleration. In short, the less mass and more energy put on matter, the faster speed it moves. So, when pushing an object at a constant speed, the weight of the object can be calculated depending on its acceleration rate.

Through this process, the vehicle estimates the distance it can drive and adjusts its maximum torque output. Specifically, the potential vehicle range estimate is based on the accurate measurement of the current weight and speed of the vehicle, enhancing efficiency for commercial use.

For example, when the vehicle is carrying a heavy load, the vehicle automatically informs the driver of the estimated drive range to secure sufficient battery life to reach the destination safely.

Hyundai Motor Group has been making a great effort to develop environment-friendly commercial vehicles to contribute to global greenhouse gas reduction. Last year, Hyundai Motor Group signed an MOU with the Swiss company H2 Energy to establish a joint venture, Hyundai Hydrogen Mobility, through which it will provide one thousand heavy duty fuel cell electric trucks for five years.

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About Hyundai Motor Europe HQ

Hyundai Motor Europe was formally established in 2000 with its main office in Offenbach, Germany. Hyundai currently sells cars in 41 European countries through 3,000 outlets and in 2018 achieved registrations of 543,292 vehicles in the region – an increase of 3.9 percent compared to 2017, a higher rate than the market average. 2018 was the fourth consecutive year with a record sales result. 75 percent of the vehicles Hyundai sold in the region are models designed, engineered, tested and built in Europe to meet the needs of European customers, served by the company's extensive European infrastructure. This includes two factories in the Czech Republic and Turkey, which have a combined annual capacity of 600,000 units. Hyundai is proud to offer the youngest product line-up in Europe: 90 per cent of the models are less than two years old. Hyundai offers its unique Five Year Unlimited Mileage Warranty package with all new cars sold in the region, providing customers with a five-year warranty with no mileage limit, five years of roadside assistance and five years of vehicle health checks.

More information about Hyundai Motor Europe HQ and its products is available at www.hyundai.news.

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About Hyundai Motor

Established in 1967, Hyundai Motor Company is committed to becoming a lifetime partner in automobiles and beyond with its range of world-class vehicles and mobility services offered available in more than 200 countries. Employing more than 110,000 employees worldwide, Hyundai sold more than 4.5 million vehicles globally. Hyundai continues to enhance its product line-up with vehicles that are helping to build solutions for a more sustainable future, such as NEXO – the world's first dedicated hydrogen-powered SUV.

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