



+ Simultaneous translation:  
German – English

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9th International VDI Conference

# Powertrain Systems in Mobile Machines 2026

## Key topics discussed:

- Zero emission concept
- Innovative solutions for process and traction drives
- Combined and co-existing drivetrain concepts
- Electric powertrain concept: Charging infrastructure, battery modules, thermal management
- Field Experience: Power supply, infrastructure, machine design

+ Free entrance to the parallel event  
Dritev 2026

+ Empowering ideas through intensive dialogue  
Speakers Corners & Poster Exhibition

+ Networking at the joint evening event

+ Exhibition



### Conference chairman

**Prof. Dr. Ludger Frerichs**, Director, Institute of Mobile Machines and Commercial Vehicles (IMN), Technische Universität Braunschweig, Germany

## With experts from:



**1st Conference day**  
Tuesday, June 30th, 2026

● 08:00 **Registration**

● 09:00 **Joint welcome of the congress and conference**

**Dipl.-Ing. Thomas Pfund**, President Business Unit E-Motors, Schaeffler Automotive, Buehl, Germany



**Plenary speeches**

**Moderation: Dipl.-Ing. Thomas Pfund**, Schaeffler Automotive

● 09:10 **Europe, China and the AI revolution: What does this mean for drive technology?**

- As USA and China lead in AI technology, do we still have a chance on the application side?
- Will the leadership in AI contribute to the success of Chinese automotive industries?
- What are the opportunities and challenges posed by AI for the automotive sector and drive train technology?

**Prof. Dr. Hans Uszkoreit**, Scientific Director, German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence, Berlin, Germany



● 09:35 **Faster, higher, stronger: The rise of Chinese competition and what it means for Europe's automotive industry**

- The unique reasons, from politics to technology, that make Chinese competition so challenging
- Future trajectory of Chinese competitors – in China and around the globe
- Chinese competition as a wake-up call for European automotive companies

**Björn Conrad**, CEO and co-founder of China-focused consultancy Sinolytics, Berlin and Beijing, Germany and China



● 10:00 **Global economy: Geopolitics meets technological disruptions**

- Global growth has been below its long-term for the last 7 years
- In many markets, the advance of Chinese competitors and disruptive technological changes have challenged existing business models
- The apparent changes in the geopolitical landscape add to adjustment costs of industries

**Dr. Thomas Hueck**, Chief Economist, Robert Bosch GmbH, Stuttgart, Germany



● 10:25 **Powering progress – Electrification as a catalyst for sustainable mobile machinery**

- Electrification is more than a trend – It's a transformation that is revolutionizing mobile machinery across the agricultural, construction, and marine sectors
- Sustainability and performance can go hand in hand: Regulatory pressure, market demand, and advances in battery and charging technologies drive greener, efficient machines
- Collaboration fuels innovation: Automation, fast charging, battery swapping, smart grids, and AI-driven vehicle-to-grid solutions enable reliable and performant fleet operation
- The future is now – Let's lead it with deeply modernized, resilient grids for a renewable-powered world

**Dr.-Ing. Udo Scheff**, President, KREISEL Electric GmbH, Rainbach i.M., Austria



☕ 10:50 **Be interactive** – Meet & greet in the exhibition area and car presentation

● 11:25 **Opening of 9th International VDI Conference**

**Powertrain Systems in Mobile Machines 2026**

**Conference chairman**

**Prof. Dr. Ludger Frerichs**, IMN, Technische Universität Braunschweig, Germany

**Caroline Körber**, VDI Wissensforum GmbH, Duesseldorf, Germany



**Process drives**

**Moderation: Prof. Dr. Ludger Frerichs**, Germany

● 11:30 **New powertrain for a next generation of large square balers**

- New baler start and quick stop system: Innovation – efficiency – new power level
- Closed powertrain with new level of power density
- Fully controlled powertrain (sensorics, smart control and actuated gearboxes)

**Dipl.-Ing. Andreas Roth**, General Manager, Antriebstechnik-Roth GmbH, Much, Germany, **Dipl.-Ing. (FH) Volker Fuchs**, Senior Vice President Product Unit Balers, Usines Claas France SAS, Metz, France

● 12:00 **Electrification of special construction method cutter soil mixing (CSM)**

- CSM method for stabilizing soft or loose soils
- Electrified power train: concept, installation space, prototype and test
- Increase of performance and efficiency by electric drive technology

**Dr.-Ing. Hans-Philipp Otto**, Director of Research & Development, BAUER Maschinen GmbH, Schrobenhausen, Germany

● 12:30 **New clutch-controlled CVT in fertiliser spreader operation**

- Load independent variability using controlled slippage clutch
- Fully integrated and very compact system: Clutch, hydraulic and measurement
- Optimized fertilizer distribution in border spreading by reducing spreading range

**Moritz Euler, M. Sc.**, Development engineer, Design & Development, Antriebstechnik-Roth GmbH, Much, Germany

🍴 13:00 **Time for Business Lunch** – Meet & greet in the exhibition area and car presentation

**Traction drives**

**Moderation: Dipl.-Ing. Stefan Prebeck**, ZF Friedrichshafen AG, Passau, Germany

● 14:30 **Line traction advantages and solution for automatic power distribution to all wheels in practice**

- Challenges in today's drivetrain technology for heavy off-road vehicles: Balancing maneuverability and traction
- Automatic load distribution to optimize traction, stability, and steering precision
- Efficiency through automatic drivetrain control: Full driver relief and high mobility without any driver intervention

**Johannes Müller, B. Eng.**, CEO, Müller Landmaschinen GmbH, Bonndorf, Germany; **Stefan Herr, M. Sc.**, Research Group Leader Drivetrain Technology and Test Benches, Institute of Vehicle System Technology – Institute Mobile Machines, MOBIMA, Karlsruher Institut für Technologie (KIT), Germany

● 15:00 **Dual-speed transmission for electric off-highway machines**

- Rationale and design concept: Shifting mechanism, architecture, lubrication
- Performance and efficiency benefits for target applications
- Experimental results from transmission prototype testing

**Lorenzo Serrao, Ph. D.**, Lead Engineer Electrification, Advanced Engineering, Allison Off-Highway Drive and Motion Systems, Rovereto, Italy

### 15:30 A case study on a 7-ton parallel-series hybrid wheel loader

- Hybridization of non road mobile machinery (NRM) powerpacks enables decoupled control of propulsion and working hydraulics
- A parallel-series hybrid architecture for a 7-ton wheel loader can achieve over 30% fuel consumption reduction
- Hybrid systems reduce engine load and transient demands, opening pathways for new engine designs aligned with sustainability and near-zero emissions goals

**Dr.-Ing. Joschka Schaub**, Department Manager Controls, Motor, Hybrid and Fuel Cell Powertrains, Dipl.-Ing. Arne Müller, Team Leader, FEV Europe GmbH, Aachen, Germany; **Yuki Kakichi, M. Sc.**, Lead Architect for e-Powertrain, Systems Engineering Division, Electrification Unit, Yanmar Holdings Co., Ltd., Helmond, Netherlands

**16:00 Be interactive** – Meet & greet in the exhibition area and car presentation



### Electric systems architecture

**Moderation: Dr.-Ing. Florian Mulzer**, AGCO GmbH, Marktoberdorf, Germany

### 16:45 Innovative drive and charging solution for automated field work

- Requirements and constraints: Electrified and fully automated field cultivation, weed control and plant protection, cultivation and charging concept
- Field robot with modular drive system and working functions
- Automated high-performance charging at the field's edge for 24/7 operation: Innovative butting contact principle, low-loss transmission even of very high charging currents, international standardisation process

**Dr.-Ing. Sven Klausner**, Group Manager Charging Infrastructure, R&D, Vehicle Systems, Dipl.-Ing. (FH) Matthias Breikopf, Research Assistant, Fraunhofer Institute for Transportation and Infrastructure Systems IVI, Dresden, Germany; Dipl.-Ing. Jens Fehrmann, Research Assistant, Chair of Agricultural Systems Technology, Institute of Natural Materials Technology, Dresden University of Technology, Germany

### 17:15 System architecture development for advanced cooling and heating systems in electrified agricultural machinery

- Requirements for battery-electric vs. conventional agricultural machinery concepts: Range, energy efficiency, power density
- Development of a system structure for the efficient utilisation of waste heat
- Explanation of a system setup for testing various thermal management architectures: Modularity, flexibility, efficiency

**Benjamin Wilk, M. Sc.**, Development Engineer, R&D Electrical Drives, Dr.-Ing. Jan Wieckhorst, Vice President Advanced Development of Tractors and Implements, CLAAS Industrietechnik GmbH, Paderborn, Germany; Prof. Dr.-Ing. Ludger Frerichs, Director, Institute of Mobile Machines and Commercial Vehicles (IMN), Technische Universität Braunschweig, Germany

### 17:45 Challenges with the electrification of construction machinery beyond the machine itself

- Infrastructure: Limited connection capacity at construction sites requires modular buffer storage and flexible mobile charging solutions
- Planning: Data-based load forecasting enables proactive charging management and an appropriate supply strategy
- Ecosystem management: Intelligent coupling of PV systems, battery storage, and energy market integration for maximum efficient, cost-effective, and sustainable construction site operations

**Dipl.-Ing. Daniel Bachmann**, Managing Director, Liebherr Energy Solutions GmbH, Baden, Switzerland

### 18:15 End of the 1st conference day

### 18:45 Get-together at the 'Kurhaus Baden-Baden'

## 2nd Conference day Wednesday, July 1st, 2026



### Real world experience of electrification

**Moderation: Dipl.-Ing. (FH) Marco Reinards, MBA**, John Deere GmbH & Co. KG, Mannheim, Germany

### 08:30 10 years of electrification of mobile machinery with automotive components: Experiences, challenges and solutions

- Advantages of using electric drive systems from the automotive series: Economies of scale, maturity level and technological progress
- Additional requirements and conflicting objectives: Regulations & standards, complexity vs. flexibility
- Field experience and application examples

**Dipl.-Ing. Stephan Dirnberger**, Senior Manager, Customer Team Worldwide Off-Highway and Robotics - Perception and Electrification, Bosch Engineering GmbH, Holzkirchen, Germany

### 09:00 From prototype to production vehicle: Development of an electrified tractor

- Why does an e-tractor still have a gearbox? Exploring the new vehicle concept of the E-Vario
- Key insights from intensive validation phases, field testing and operational scenarios
- Bringing innovation to the production line: Challenges, solutions, and the transformation in manufacturing for the first electric Vario

**Tobias Steidle, M. Eng.**, Projektkoordinator Plattform E1, Dr.-Ing. Florian Mulzer, Transmission Specialist, Dipl.-Ing. Christoph Mayer, Platform Lead Engineer E1/S1/S2-Premium, AGCO GmbH, Marktoberdorf, Germany

### 09:30 Drivetrain design for a battery electric, agricultural, utility, tractor

- Drivetrain architecture selection: Innovative powertrain, hydraulic, and electrical solutions for maximum runtime and efficiency in zero-emission tractors
- Component design: Novel torque-transmitting hardware – benefits, tradeoffs, and comparison to conventional ICE designs
- NVH optimization: Addressing noise, vibration, and harshness challenges unique to electrified tractor platforms

**Eli Van Boening**, Engineer, Drivetrain Engineering, John Deere, Cedar Falls, USA; **Greg Long**, Engineer, John Deere, Waterloo, USA

### 10:00 Successful electrification of towbarless aircraft tractors – How to transform an industry through customer value

- Data Analysis as a Success Factor: Insights from usage patterns, operating hours, and energy demand for optimal customer guidance
- Simulation over Guesswork: How simulation tools enable informed decisions based on energy requirements, charging strategies, and vehicle configuration
- Technically and Economically Superior: Vehicle availability, battery lifespan, and total cost of ownership comparison

**Dipl.-Ing. Martin Rieser**, Vice President of R&D, Goldhofer AG, Memmingen, Germany

**10:30 Be interactive** – Meet & greet in the exhibition area and car presentation



### Powertrain comparison

**Moderation: Dr.-Ing. Alexander Baar**, Bosch Rexroth AG, Dortmund, Germany

### 11:15 System follows application: Architectures in mobile working machines

- Powertrain architecture: Battery, Hybrid or FuelCell?!
- Respecting duty cycles for optimized system design
- System comparison based on concrete vehicle types

**Dr.-Ing. Thomas Woopen**, Lead Engineer System Development, Commercial Vehicle, Morian Adelt, B.Eng., System Development Engineer AVL Deutschland GmbH, Neuss, Germany

**11:45 Hydrogen engine or fuel cell tractors? Comparison of operational performance on medium-scale german farms**

- Operational comparison of current drive concepts: Diesel- vs. H<sub>2</sub>-ICE vs. PEM-FC
- Key findings: Comparable hydrogen consumption across conversion types and modest time penalties despite increased refueling frequency for hydrogen
- Economic assessment: Operational feasibility, key challenges due to cost differentials

**Timo Wyszynski, M. Sc.**, Research Assistant, Lukas Reuter, M. Sc., Research Assistant, Processes and Procedures, Prof. Dr. Ludger Frerichs, Director, Institute of Mobile Machines and Commercial Vehicles (IMN), Technische Universität Braunschweig, Germany

**12:15 Electrifying agriculture: Exploring hybrid powertrain solutions for tractors**

- Serial, parallel, power-split hybrid
- Vehicle simulation on realistic working cycles
- Fuel efficiency, energy flow distribution, productivity, functional benefits

**Dr. Dipl.-Ing. Christoph Schörghuber**, Lead Engineer System Integration and Simulation, Functional Development Commercial Vehicles, DI Markus Ortner, System Simulation Engineer CV, DI Rudolf Hempel, System Development Engineer Off-Road, AVL List GmbH, Steyr, Austria

**12:45 Time for Business Lunch** – Meet & greet in the exhibition area and car presentation



**Systemic developments**

**Moderation: Philipp Suhm, M. Sc.**, Head of Engineering Coordination, Corporate Technology and Digitalisation, Liebherr-International Deutschland GmbH, Biberach (Riß), Germany

**14:15 Electrification of Off-Highway machinery and modular battery swapping: Practical advantages and technical challenges**

- Modular battery swapping as an alternative to high-power charging: Continuous operation without the need for high-power charging
- Flexible battery configurations: 3 tool-free interchangeable batteries, 5 possible slot positions for balanced ballasting
- Stationary use and V2G capability: Charging/discharging in a docking station enables self-consumption optimization and vehicle-to-grid functionality

**Sebastian Schlegel, M. Sc.**, Project Manager ONOX, **Daniel Hornung, M. Sc.**, Project Manager ONOX, raumideen GmbH & Co. KG, Isny, Germany

**14:45 Hydrogen in agriculture – An energy self-supply-concept for an agricultural business**

- Market- and technology analysis of agricultural vehicles: Expert-interviews, requirements, needs for action and roadmaps
- Development of hydrogen energy systems with sector coupling: concept, simulation, optimization
- Economic analysis and technical evaluation of the concept: Total cost of ownership, CO<sub>2</sub> avoidance potential, self-sufficiency-grade and integrability

**Hendrik Vorjans, M. Sc.**, Research Associate, Energy Management & Drivetrains, Fabian Brumann, M. Sc., Alumni, Mechanical Engineering, Univ.-Prof. Dr.-Ing. Lutz Eckstein, Director, Institute for Automotive Engineering (ika), RWTH Aachen University, Germany

**15:15 Mining reinvented: The T 264's journey to zero emissions**

- Strategic shift – from traditional product OEM to comprehensive mining solutions OEM
- Focus on electrification solution: T 264 truck moves from diesel to battery-electric haulage solution
- Static and dynamic charging power included

**Dr.-Ing. Isabelle Ays, MBA**, Head of Zero Emission, Liebherr-Mining Equipment Colmar SAS, Colmar, France

**15:45 Closing remarks by the conference chairman**

**15:50 End of 9th International VDI Conference Powertrain Systems in Mobile Machines 2026**



**Joint plenary session**

**Moderation: Dipl.-Ing. Thomas Pfund**, President Business Unit E-Motors, Schaeffler Automotive Buehl, Germany



**16:00 Awarding of the Best Presentation Award for Junior Engineers**

**16:05 Common closing remarks**

**16:15 End of the International VDI congress Dritev 2026**

**Advisory board**



**1st row from left to right:**

- Dr.-Ing. Alexander Baar**, Director Advanced Engineering Transmission Units, Bosch Rexroth AG, Dortmund, Germany
- Dipl.-Ing. Kai Brandhofe**, Vice President SF System Technology, CLAAS Selbst-fahrende Erntemaschinen GmbH, Harsewinkel, Germany
- Dr.-Ing. Ettore Cosoli**, Vice President, Global Engineering, Allison Off-Highway Drive and Motion Systems, Allison Transmission Holding, Inc., Indianapolis, USA
- Prof. Dr. Ludger Frerichs**, Director, Institute of Mobile Machines and Commercial Vehicles (IMN), Technische Universität Braunschweig, Germany (Conference Chairman)

**2nd row from left to right:**

- Dr.-Ing. Florian Mulzer**, Transmission Specialist, AGCO GmbH, Marktobendorf, Germany
- Dipl.-Ing. Stefan Prebeck**, Head of R&D Division Industrial Technology, Head of Engineering Business Unit Off-Highway, ZF Friedrichshafen AG, Passau, Germany
- Dipl.-Ing. Marco Reinards, (MBA)**, Engineering Manager Tractor Drivetrain & Hydraulics, John Deere GmbH & Co. KG, Mannheim, Germany
- Philipp Suhm, M. Sc.**, Head of Engineering Coordination, Corporate Technology and Digitalisation, Liebherr-International Deutschland GmbH, Biberach (Riß), Germany

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## Excerpt from poster exhibition

### Requirements and strategies for the integration of hydrogen fuel cell systems in mobile machines

**Johann von Harling, M. Sc.**, Research Associate Hydrogen Technologies, Production Engineering of E-Mobility Components (PEM), RWTH Aachen University, Germany

### Generating hydrogen where it is needed – decentralized supply concepts for mobile machines in open-cast mining

**Maximilian Bayerlein, M. Sc.**, Group Lead Alternative Powertrain Technologies, Production Engineering of E-Mobility Components (PEM), RWTH Aachen University, Germany

### Increasing the storage density and energy efficiency of emission-free drives through the use and intelligent integration of liquid hydrogen storage systems and fuel cells

**Fabian Jonen, M. Sc.**, Research Associate Hydrogen Technologies, Production Engineering of E-Mobility Components (PEM), RWTH Aachen University

### Simulative powertrain design of electrified working machines based on real usage data

**Michael Siegel, M. Eng.**, Research Associate, Faculty of Mechanical and Civil Engineering, Hochschule Landshut, University of Applied Sciences, Landshut, Germany

### New electric dynamic shift drive

**Moritz Euler, M. Sc.**, Development engineer, Design & Development, Antriebs-technik-Roth GmbH, Much, Germany



## Parallel congress

June 30th – July 1st, 2026, Kongresshaus Baden-Baden, Germany

## International VDI Congress Dritev 2026

Free entry with your conference ticket!

### Main Topics:

- Vehicle propulsion systems from 48V MHEV to 800V BEV (architecture, design, operational strategy)
- Highly efficient electric drive systems and components (E-Motor, power electronics, energy storage and management)
- Digitalization, AI, Intelligent Control
- System integration and NHV (thermal management, acoustics, EMC)
- Sustainability and CO<sub>2</sub> Neutrality
- Transmission systems, fluids and components

### Conference chairman:

**Dipl.-Ing. Thomas Pfund**, Schaeffler Automotive Buehl, Bühl, Germany

### With lectures from:

AVL | BMW | BorgWarner | Cargill Bioindustrial | Castrol | Dauch | DuPont | DeepDrive | Elaphe Propulsion | Elring-Klinger | Emil Motors | Felss Systems | FEV Europe | Feintool System Parts Sachsenheim | Flanders Make | Fraunhofer Institute | InfiMotion Technology | Li Auto | Mahle International | Mercedes-Benz | Muhr und Bender | P3 Group | Radermacher & Partner | Robert Bosch | Schaeffler Automotive Buehl | Valeo | Volkswagen | ZF Friedrichshafen



Further details: [www.dritev.com](http://www.dritev.com)

## VDI workshops, Monday, June 29th, 2026

9.00 a.m to 17.00 p.m, Kongresshaus Baden-Baden, Germany

Held in German only

### KI verstehen und anwenden – Grundlagen für Kosteneinsparung und Prozesseffizienz



Further details: [www.vdi-wissensforum.de/01ST807](http://www.vdi-wissensforum.de/01ST807)

### Akustik und Schwingungen – Grundlagen und Messtechnik in Anwendung



Further details: [www.vdi-wissensforum.de/01ST808](http://www.vdi-wissensforum.de/01ST808)

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### Contact:

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