



APR 14 – 16

AGENDA

JOINING IN CAR BODY ENGINEERING 2026

TUESDAY | APRIL 14

MODULE 1: ADHESIVE AND HYBRID BONDING

8:15 AM Welcome and conference introduction Module 1
Dr. Dirk Meine, Automotive Circle, DE

CIRCULAR ECONOMY CONCEPTS

8:45 AM **Keynote: Circular economy and adhesive bonding technology – opponents or allies? Positioning adhesive bonding technology for the 21st century**
Prof. Andreas Groß, Fraunhofer Institute for Manufacturing Technology and Advanced Materials IFAM, DE

9:45 AM **De-bonding approaches for new battery concepts in the automotive sector**
Dr. Jens Holtmannspötter, Innovationszentrum der Bundeswehr, Innovations- und Technologieerschließung, DE

10:15 AM **Use less and use better: innovative multi-functional concepts for sustainable (de)-bonding solutions and circular economy**
Dr. Nicolae Bordeanu, Björn Funke, Sika AG, DE

10:45 AM **Meet the Speakers | Exhibition | Coffee and contacts**

STRUCTURAL AND FUNCTIONAL ADHESIVES SOLUTIONS I

11:30 AM **Advanced bonding solutions enabling modular vehicle assembly**
Dr. Felix Koch, DuPont, CH

12:00 PM **Speed meets structure: Fast-curing polyurea and plasma polymer for instant bonding**
Joost Poppelaars, Collano AG, CH

12:30 PM **New acrylics for structural and battery bonding**
Dr. Andreas Lutz, DuPont, CH

1:00 PM **Meet the Speakers | Exhibition | Lunch Break**

STRUCTURAL AND FUNCTIONAL ADHESIVES SOLUTIONS II

2:15 PM **Pumpable foaming materials for body shop**
Matthias Hagn, BMW AG, DE

2:45 PM **Advanced structural solutions in NVH and crash**
Dr. Marwen Chatti, Nadine Millies, Henkel AG & Co., DE

3:15 PM **Innovative and sustainable thermal interface materials for efficient battery cooling**
Dr. Holger Fricke, Martin Rütters, Fraunhofer Institute for Manufacturing Technology and Advanced Materials IFAM, DE

3:45 PM **Meet the Speakers | Exhibition | Coffee and contacts**

PHYSICAL AND VIRTUAL CONCEPT INNOVATIONS

4:30 PM **tba**
Dr. Fabian Fischer, Volkswagen AG / Open Hybrid Lab Factory e.V., DE

5:00 PM **Integrating crash-resistant polymer interlayers to enable structural adhesive joints in assembly line**
Christoph Schult, Volkswagen AG, DE

5:30 PM **Transforming automotive material simulation: digital materials hub and virtual material data card**
Dr. Arnob Banik, 3M, US

6:00 PM **Meet the Speakers | Exhibition | Get together**

7:00 PM **Networking Dinner Module 1**

JOINING IN CAR BODY ENGINEERING 2026

CONFERENCE VENUE: Hotel DOLCE Bad Nauheim
Elvis-Presley-Platz 1 | 61231 Bad Nauheim | Germany
www.dolcebadnauheim.com

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WEDNESDAY | APRIL 15

MODULE 1: ADHESIVE AND HYBRID BONDING

MODULE 2: THERMAL AND MECHANICAL JOINING

– JOINT SESSIONS OF BOTH MODULES –

8:15 AM Welcome and conference introduction Module 2
Dr. Dirk Meine, Automotive Circle, DE

BODY SHOP PROCESS INNOVATIONS

8:45 AM The green solution – Compressed-air free joining systems
Dr. Marcus Matzke, Tox Pressotechnik SE & Co. KG, DE;
Michel Vogt, Audi AG, DE

9:15 AM Revolutionary robot hemming with a ski in one step
Jean-Marie Coquet, Stellantis NV, FR

BODY-IN-WHITE PRESENTATION

9:45 AM Joining technologies and manufacturing process of the DS N°8
– subsequent discussion with the speakers
at the BIW exhibit –
Nicolas Imholz, Halim Drif, Stellantis NV, FR

10:30 AM Meet the Speakers | Exhibition | Coffee and contacts

FOCUS ON SURFACES

11:15 AM – online –
Enhancing laser welding and adhesive bonding of aluminium materials through plasma surface cleaning
Vasileios Bagiatis, Jaguar Land Rover Ltd., UK

11:45 AM Plasma cleaning offers new possibilities on aluminium
Daniel Rudolph, Audi AG, DE; Thomas Hager, Fronius, AT

BODY-IN-WHITE PRESENTATION

12:15 PM Joining technologies of the Neue Klasse – BMW iX3 at the all new plant Debrecen
– subsequent discussion with the speakers
at the BIW exhibit –
Andreas Reisinger, Dr. Shahan Tutunjian, BMW Group, DE

1:00 PM Meet the Speakers | Exhibition | Lunch Break

CHALLENGING JOINTS

2:15 PM Simulation of local suitability for bonding of aluminium high-pressure die casting parts
Dr. Norbert Hoffmann, Technische Universität Braunschweig – Institute für Joining and Welding, DE

2:45 PM Joining strength of pre-hole flowdrill screws with structure adhesive as a hybrid joining technology
Amanda Freis, Ford Motor Company, US; Andreas Wenzel, Atlas Copco IAS GmbH, DE

3:15 PM Fastest and safest laser welding solution for Assembly simplification for Honda
Alan Seid, Honda Development & Manufacturing of America, LLC, US; Gagan Tandon, ArcelorMittal Tailored Blanks Americas, US

3:45 PM Meet the Speakers | Exhibition | Coffee and contacts

– END OF MODULE 1 | MODULE 2 CONTINUED –

ADVANCES IN MECHANICAL JOINING

4:30 PM New self-pierce rivet serving the modern market needs
Dr. Sergej Hartwig-Biglau, Böllhoff Verbindungstechnik GmbH, DE

5:00 PM Next generation of flow drill screw fastening systems – Robot driven with active adaptive alignment
Aaron Alexander Brinkmann, Paderborn University, Laboratory for Material and Joining Technology (LWF), DE

5:30 PM Further developments in plasma assisted mechanical joining technologies
Dr. Julian Vorderbrüggen, Dr. Christian Reis, Stanley Engineered Fastening Tucker GmbH, DE

6:00 PM Meet the Speakers | Exhibition | Get together

7:00 PM Networking Dinner Module 2

JOINING IN CAR BODY ENGINEERING 2026

CONFERENCE FEES:

Module 1 (Standard single fee): 1.830 €*

Module 2 (Standard single fee): 1.830 €*

Module 1 & 2 (Early-bird fee): 2.755 €* (until March 13, 2026)

Module 1 & 2 (Standard fee): 2.955 €* (after March 13, 2026)

* All prices plus 19% German VAT

Registration and Terms & Conditions at www.automotive-circle.com



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THURSDAY | APRIL 16

MODULE 2: THERMAL AND MECHANICAL JOINING

PROGRESS IN RESISTANCE SPOT WELDING

- 9:00 AM** **MultiPulse Resistance Welding : towards a unique parameter to improve weld strength on AHSS**
Helena Lejault, ArcelorMittal, FR
- 9:30 AM** **Innovative preconditioning functions for resistance spot welding: intelligent process control for challenging joints**
Maximilian Wohner, Jürgen Häufglöckner, Bosch Rexroth AG, DE
- 10:00 AM** – online –
New high-performance solutions for challenging joints by means of nugget control welding technology
Zhongjie Yuan, Sanyu Group, CN
- 10:30 AM** **Development of a new approach to resistance spot weld AW-7075 aluminum alloys for structural applications: a material characterization study**
Pedro Bamberg, ISF – Welding and Joining Institute, RWTH – Aachen University, DE
- 11:00 AM** **Meet the Speakers | Exhibition | Coffee and contacts**

NEW JOINING TECHNOLOGIES

- 11:45 AM** **Innovative REW multi-material joining solutions: where global multi-material joining strategies and “very difficult-to-join” material stacks lead to the same technology choices**
Sean Farrell, Regis Alain, Gaming Engineering, FR
- 12:15 PM** **Increasing process robustness in friction stir welding through the use of multi-pin tools**
Michael Wiegand, University Kassel, Department for Cutting and Joining, DE
- 12:45 PM** **Enhancing efficiency and precision in blind rivet nut installation – advances in automated solutions**
Ingo Untch, Weber Schraubautomaten GmbH, DE

1:15 PM **Meet the Speakers | Exhibition | Lunch Break**

MATERIAL DEVELOPMENTS

- 2:30 PM** **Cold cracking in laser welds of high-strength steels**
Peter Ohse, ThyssenKrupp Steel Europe AG, DE
- 3:00 PM** **Welding of highest strength hot-form materials for tailored blank applications**
Jana von der Heydt, Baosteel Tailored Blanks GmbH, DE

OEM CONCLUSIONS | OUTLOOK

- 3:30 PM** **OEM Advisory Board members on current challenges in the body shop**
OEM Advisory Board experts
- 3:45 PM** **Farewell address and end of the conference**

* All times in CEST (UTC+2)
Conference program is subject to change
Status as of: February 11, 2026



REGISTER NOW!

JOINING IN CAR BODY ENGINEERING 2026

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR AT THE **JOINING CONFERENCE IN APRIL 2027** IN BAD NAUHEIM AGAIN!