



New lifecycle research laboratory opened in Dunaújváros

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Bosch grants HUF 274 million to Dunaújváros College

Budapest – Hatvan-based Robert Bosch Elektronika Kft. signed a special agreement with the Dunaújváros College on granting HUF 274 million to support the setup of a lifecycle research laboratory. The new Bosch lab was inaugurated by Dr. Sven Ost, Technical Plant Manager of the Bosch Hatvan plant, and Thomas Schönenberg, Commercial Plant Manager in Hatvan, on 1 July 2008.

Regional Knowledge Center for Material Sciences and Technologies, DURATT, was established at the Dunaújváros College in December 2006. The center is involved in the research of material science modeling as well as in the study of material damage, defect and fault processes and phenomena. In his inauguration speech Dr. Sven Ost pointed out that it is very important for Robert Bosch Elektronika Kft. to have a place for the lifecycle research of the automotive electronics products manufactured in Hatvan. Celebrating its 10-year anniversary this weekend, Robert Bosch Elektronika Kft. employs some 3,400 persons and manufactures automotive electronics components on a useful plant area of 89,000 sqm. The company supplies daily 160,000 products to almost all car manufacturers worldwide. “In order to increase our competitiveness in the field of automotive electronics parts we must further improve the reliability indexes that are closely correlated with our product liability and warranty obligations. That is why Bosch joined DURATT’s subproject dealing with the research of material damage theories and fault creation processes”, said Dr. Sven Ost. Pursuant to the agreement, Robert Bosch Elektronika Kft. will provide a total grant of HUF 274 million in five years for the operation of the laboratory. This arrangement is unique in the field of higher education R&D activities also because the operation of the laboratory was adjusted to the quality requirements of Bosch. As the Hatvan-based company assumes a 15-year warranty for its products, the researchers simulate an aging period of 15 years and then study the operability of the various products.

The Bosch laboratory has two main research units: a thermal chamber and a shaking machine. The thermal chamber with a capacity of 1,150 liters can be used at a temperature range of minus 90 and 180 °C and a humidity range of 10 to 95 percent. The shaking machine performs measurements between 10 and 3,000 Hz at max. 78 kg. The trial run of the lab started in April 2008 and its operation was audited by Bosch quality control experts on 10 June 2008. A research group has already started to work on the elaboration of the plans for the research projects to be implemented. The new Bosch lab offers a possibility for the mechanical engineering college students to obtain a deeper knowledge about modern research equipment within the framework of practical diagnostics sessions.

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