

Continental presents a new LED light control unit which centrally governs the light functions in cars and trucks.

As LEDs cannot be fed with power from the on-board voltage supply they require control electronics in order to monitor the on-board voltage supply and control light intensity by means of pulse-width modulation.



The lighting control unit is integrated into the vehicle's data flow system and communicates with the central vehicle electronics system via LIN and CAN. Thus it processes, for example, the information received on speed, steering angle, driver's lighting demands and the readings from light and rain sensors. The electronics can accommodate a total of eight light looms and the LED groups can be individually controlled.

Instead of being integrated into the lamp housing the unit is fastened on the outside as a separate component. In the event that the headlight's protective glass cover is damaged, the control device can be reused and conversely the electronics can be replaced without changing the headlights. According to Continental, the system withstands the thermal conditions prevailing in the engine compartment as it is relatively temperature-insensitive. Sized like a pocket calculator, the unit has a modular structure, allowing it to be varied for different applications in various vehicle classes.