

## PRESS INFORMATION

# Henry Ford Technology Award for two teams at Volvo Cars

**The work of two engineering teams at Volvo Car Corporation has been recognised in the form of a Henry Ford Technology Award each.**

**“The award ceremony felt like a blend of the Academy Awards and the dinner for new Nobel Prize winners,” says Gunnar Hellichius, leader of the production team which won one of the awards. At the ceremony in Dearborn, all the team members and their spouses had the opportunity to meet senior Ford management led by Jac Nasser.**

**The teams were being rewarded for two high-tech solutions – the car seat design known as WHIPS (Whiplash Protection System), and a flexible new production structure for camshafts.**

Two engineering teams from Volvo Car Corporation have been rewarded for the quality of their technical solutions. They received their awards at a ceremony in the US attended by the Ford Motor Company president, Jacques Nasser.

Recipients of the Henry Ford Technology Awards (HFTA) are chosen annually in recognition of unique technological developments within the Ford Group.

Chosen to receive one of the awards in the product development area was the team comprising Bo Alfredsson (leader), Björn Lundell, Lotta Jakobsson and Nils Hansson. They had developed the Whiplash Protection System (WHIPS), initially for the Volvo S80. WHIPS consists of a safety system inside the car seats which

absorbs the force from a rear-end collision, thereby reducing the risk of whiplash injuries.

From the production sphere, a team consisting of Leif Pehrsson, Patric Nilsson, Bengt Carlsson, Johnny Andersson and leader Gunnar Hellichius was rewarded for its work on a new production structure for camshafts. The new solution achieved a rationalisation in the manufacture of camshafts and incorporated a newly-developed visual materials handling system.

“It is very gratifying to see Ford reinforcing the fact that development and production go hand in hand,” says Gunnar Hellichius, who normally works at the engine plant in Skövde, Sweden. “We were given a fantastic welcome, and all the praise has certainly helped boost our self-confidence.”

The Henry Ford Technology Awards are given to six teams in the area of development and production enhancements and to three teams for research. In addition to all the kudos attached, winners also receive options.

The two teams had previously won a corresponding European prize.

*[Caption no. – Bildtext nr – 66568278.jpg (photo on the mediasite):] The product development team responsible for the Whiplash Protection System (WHIPS). From left: Nils Hansson, Lotta Jakobsson, Stefan Pettersson (head of development, interior and climate), Bo Alfredsson (team leader) and Björn Lundell.*

*[Caption no. – Bildtext nr – 66568275.jpg (photo on the mediasite):] Back row, from left: Staff members from Volvos Cars’ engine plant in Skövde, Sweden, received a Henry Ford Technology Award for developing and introducing a new production structure for camshafts. Tommy Bäckström (factory manager of Volvo Cars’ Skövde plant), Patric Nilsson, Gunnar Hellichius (team leader), Bengt Carlsson. Front row: Leif Pehrsson and Johnny Andersson.*

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