MAZDA BEGINS ROLLOUT OF AQUA-TECH, WORLD'S LOWEST-IMPACT WATER-BASED PAINT SYSTEM, TO OVERSEAS PLANTS

CHINA'S CHANGAN MAZDA AUTOMOBILE CO., LTD., IS FIRST TO GET THE TECHNOLOGY

HIROSHIMA, Japan—Mazda Motor Corporation has announced the introduction of its unique Aqua-tech Paint System at Changan Mazda Automobile Co., Ltd. (CMA), the company's vehicle production facility in Jiangsu, China. The technology was first introduced at the Ujina Plant No. 1 in Japan, where installation of the system was completed in 2012. CMA becomes the company's second plant and first overseas facility to feature the innovative low-impact paint technology.

Reducing volatile organic compounds (VOC) emissions from vehicle body paint shops is a long-standing issue for the automobile industry, which has traditionally favored VOC-heavy oil-based paints and thinners. Automakers moved toward water-based paints in an effort to reduce VOC emissions, but the energy-intensive evaporative drying process required for these paints resulted in increased CO_2 emissions. Mazda's unique Aqua-tech Paint System overcomes this trade-off by simultaneously reducing emissions of VOC and CO_2, and makes far more efficient use of energy and paint materials than traditional paint systems.

Even after completing installation of the Aqua-tech Paint System at Ujina Plant No. 1 in 2012, Mazda continued to develop the technology to enhance system performance and usability. The company is aiming to achieve high-quality and efficient vehicle manufacturing at its global production bases by developing technologies such as Aqua-tech in Japan before rolling them out at overseas facilities. Mazda worked with CMA to efficiently introduce the Aqua-tech Paint System at Japanese standards, and minimized installation work and paint development in China. The transition was achieved quickly and without stopping the line or interrupting production of vehicles using traditional oil-based paints. The Aqua-tech Paint System at CMA is used for all body colors, and the quality of the finish is as high as that of vehicles painted in Japan, even for designer colors such as Soul Red.

"As an automaker, we have an obligation to not only make high-quality cars, but also reduce our impact on the environment," said Kiyotaka Shobuda, Senior Managing Executive Officer. "Our painting technologies, which have helped KODO design gain recognition worldwide, represent Mazda's efforts to meet that obligation. Moving forward, we'll continue to develop innovative technologies at our parent factories in Japan before introducing them at the same high standards overseas. In this way, we'll provide customers around the world with high-quality cars and contribute both to preserving the environment and enriching society."

Mazda will continue its efforts to contribute to the realization of a sustainable society through a variety of technological innovations. The company aims to enrich people's lives and become a brand that has a special bond with customers.

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Click here for more information on Mazda's paint technology:

http://www.mazda.com/en/innovation/technology/env/other/paint_tech/

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https://news.mazdausa.com/2016-04-14-Mazda-Begins-Rollout-of-Aqua-tech-Worlds-Lowest-impact-Water-based-Paint-System-to-Overseas-Plants