

NEWS RELEASE

21 July 2009

Ricardo helps define future automotive safety standards

Publication of the draft international standard ISO/DIS 26262 (Road vehicles – Functional safety) marks a major step forward in the creation of next-generation processes for the development of safety-related electrical and electronic systems for road vehicles

The publication of the draft ISO/DIS 26262 standard is the result of a major international collaboration of automakers, tier 1 suppliers, systems integrators, and electrical, electronic and control systems developers. Inputs to the new standard have been discussed and developed at a national level and subsequently coordinated via the committee structure of the International Organization for Standardization. Development of ISO 26262 commenced in late 2005 and aims to bring standards for the development of safety critical systems up to date by focusing on the specific needs of road vehicles and encompassing state-of-the-art design processes increasingly used by the automotive industry such as model based control system development. Published this month, the draft standard is available for comment pending completion and publication of the final version later this year.

Ricardo has been an active participant of the UK contribution to the new draft standard through its control & electronics business based in Cambridge. Commenting on its contribution to this important work, Steve Montgomery, Ricardo director of control systems software, said:

“Safety-related electrical and electronic systems are an increasingly important aspect of automotive product development, a trend accelerated by the increasing electrification of vehicle architectures and the implementation of new innovations in intelligent transport technologies. This is a crucial area of Ricardo’s business as we work with leading automakers in the development of their new products and assist other safety critical systems developers in the implementation of best practice design and development processes. We are pleased therefore to have been able to contribute actively to the development of this important new international standard.”

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

Ricardo plc: With technical centres and offices in the UK, USA, Germany, the Czech Republic, France, Italy, Russia, China, Japan, India and Korea, Ricardo is a leading independent technology provider and strategic consultant to the world's transportation sector industries. The company's engineering expertise ranges from vehicle systems integration, controls, electronics and software development, to the latest driveline and transmission systems and gasoline, diesel, hybrid and fuel cell powertrain technologies. Its customers include the world's major vehicle, engine and transmission manufacturers, tier 1 suppliers and leading motorsport teams. Ricardo is committed to excellence and industry leadership in people, technology and knowledge; approximately 70 per cent of its employees are highly qualified multi-disciplined professional engineers and technicians. A public company, Ricardo plc posted sales of £197.7 million in financial year 2008 and is a constituent of the FTSE techMark 100 index – a group of innovative technology companies listed on the London Stock Exchange. For more information, visit www.ricardo.com.

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