

Press release

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Connectivity, intelligence, and flexibility: New solutions for the household appliance industry

Strengthening the customer's power of innovation as a supplier: E.G.O.-Group presents products and technologies for cooking, baking, washing, drying, and dishwashing

Oberderdingen – For 86 years, the E.G.O.-Group has been one of the leading innovators of the household appliance industry. Every year, the company provides a multitude of new solutions for cooking, baking, washing, drying, and dishwashing. “Our focus this year is on connective control systems and new user-interface technologies, as well as intelligent sensor solutions,” said Martin Wagner (Vice President of Innovation/Research & Development of the E.G.O.-Group) at the annual press conference on May 18 at the Oberderdingen headquarters. “We consider it to be our job as a supplier to strengthen the innovative power of our customers worldwide. We do this with products that can be precisely tailored to suit the requirements of manufacturers and that will delight consumers in daily life with useful functions and an intuitive operator experience.” Also in the 2016 fiscal year, E.G.O. invested around five percent of its turnover in research and development, which is much higher than the industry average. According to Wagner, the company generated approximately 37 percent of its revenue with products that have not been on the market for more than three years. The E.G.O.-Group currently holds around 1,070 legal patents worldwide.

EGO Connective Cooktop: Connectivity as a standard for cooktops

Networking household appliances and conveniently controlling them with a smartphone – theoretically, numerous connective applications can already be realized today. A basic prerequisite for this, however, is that the individual components must be equipped with connectivity at the plant. With the “Connective Cooktop”, E.G.O. gets the cooktop ready for the networked future. Connectivity via Bluetooth Low Energy is integrated as a standard feature by means of an inexpensive dongle solution. This allows users to control induc-

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tion cooktops via an app on their smartphone or tablet. In addition, the cooktops can also be connected directly with other household appliances like the extractor hood in order to automatically coordinate their operation and control it centrally.



Caption: *The EGO Connective Cooktop brings connectivity to the cooktop as a standard feature. This allows the cooktop to be automatically networked with the extractor hood, for example. Photo: E.G.O.*

EGO Chroma User Interface: High-end design in the mid-range segment

The design-oriented and high-resolution touch screens that we have come to know and love on smartphones are increasingly being used on household appliances – but implementation is still relatively expensive. E.G.O. has developed the user interface Chroma as a touchscreen solution for ovens, washing machines, dryers, and dishwashers in the mid-range segment. It gives the impression of a high-end appliance and offers a modern and intuitive operator experience. By combining a four-level monochrome display and a color film with up to 24 high-resolution full-color symbols, it offers flexible design and navigation options. It is operated directly via the symbols. With standard integrated connectivity via Bluetooth Low Energy (4.0), Chroma has the prerequisites for networked applications from the plant, such as remote control via a smartphone.

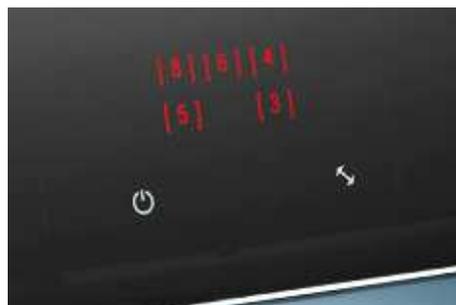
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Caption: The EGO Chroma user interfaces are a design-oriented touchscreen solution for baking ovens, washing machines, dryers, and dishwashers in the mid-range segment. **Photo: E.G.O.**

EGO Wave Touch: Intuitive cooking experience

Modern cooktops offer users more and more functions. But the more functions there are, the more demanding operation becomes. With Wave Touch, E.G.O. has developed a touch control for glass-ceramic panel cooktops in the upper mid-range and high-end segment that can be operated intuitively while visualizing a variety of functions intuitively and clearly. In doing so, E.G.O. becomes the first to use a temperature-resistant LCD display that has a particularly flexible graphical presentation with a resolution of 320 x 240 pixels and allows the use of manufacturer-specific symbols. The EGO Wave Touch also provides targeted and thus particularly intuitive user guidance: Only the information and options that are relevant for the respective cooking situation are displayed. The functions can be intuitively selected directly on the user interface.



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Caption: The EGO Wave Touch is a touch control for glass-ceramic panel cooktops. The temperature-resistant LCD display provides particularly clear visualization and user guidance. **Photo: E.G.O.**

EGO TC Lite Slider SmartKii: Greetings from the smartphone

Directly touching symbols and using “swiping” motions – the smartphone’s operating philosophy is a matter of course for users today. With the EGO TC Lite Slider SmartKii, E.G.O. now applies this philosophy to the cooktop. The touch control is equally suitable for cooktops with induction and with radiant heating elements. With SmartKii technology, E.G.O. integrates touch sensors and light symbols in one element. The user operates the appliance by directly touching the light symbols. The slider functions are additional options. User guidance is simple because with the SmartKii, only the keys that need to be operated in the respective usage situation are illuminated. Up to five cooking zones can be intuitively controlled this way. Thanks to its various color options in conjunction with a compact design, SmartKii offers manufacturers new freedom of design.



Caption: The EGO TC Lite Slider SmartKii user interface now applies the smartphone operating philosophy to the cooktop. **Photo: E.G.O.**

EGO connectivity solutions: “augmented reality” in the household

Universal integration of connectivity into E.G.O. operating and control units opens up entirely new (and cost-optimized) opportunities for manufacturers. Connectivity is a prerequisite for applications that can be remote-controlled via smartphone or tablet. The user interface on the household appliance can be extended using a smartphone – for example, by additional functions such as voice control. If service is required, the user can be guided without any

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additional expenses. The next stage may even see the complete elimination of user interfaces on appliances in order to create cost-efficient appliances with a full range of functions. The smartphone will thus become the central user interface in the home. E.G.O. is already laying the technical foundations for this with the “augmented reality” option for laundry care.



Caption: EGO connectivity solutions with “augmented reality” option supplement and extend the functionality of the user interface on the household appliance. **Photo: E.G.O.**

EGO G6 User Interface: Laundry care made easy

When it comes to laundry care, E.G.O. offers a comprehensive product portfolio of user interfaces for different requirements and price segments. The EGO G6 user interface is the latest laundry-care operating panel in the portfolio. It has an intuitive operating philosophy and, for the first time, also offers integrated connectivity as a standard in the mid-price segment. A combination of touch film and decorative film enables both touch functionality and the specific, multi-colored design of the user interface. Standard integrated connectivity via Bluetooth Low Energy (4.0) allows the implementation of networked applications, for example controlling appliances via a smartphone.

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Caption: The EGO G6 user interface for latest laundry care offers an

intuitive operating philosophy and, for the first time, also features integrated connectivity as a standard in the mid-price segment. **Photo: E.G.O.**

EGO Pure Line: Minimalist design display

Functional and reduced to the essentials – this design trend can be seen in household appliances in all price ranges. The EGO Pure Line user interface for washing machines, dryers, and dishwashers consistently implements this trend. The special technology allows the display to be completely hidden in standby mode or when switched off. The display only becomes visible when it is used; it works with clear symbols, creating a sophisticated, elegant appearance. The touch technology also allows for intuitive operation directly on the illuminated symbol. Various surface designs such as a stainless steel look allow flexible adaptation of the EGO Pure Line user interface. This display series is also being offered with gesture control for the first time. Connectivity is also integrated into the EGO Pure Line as a standard via Bluetooth Low Energy (LE) – the basis for networked applications such as remote and voice control via smartphone.

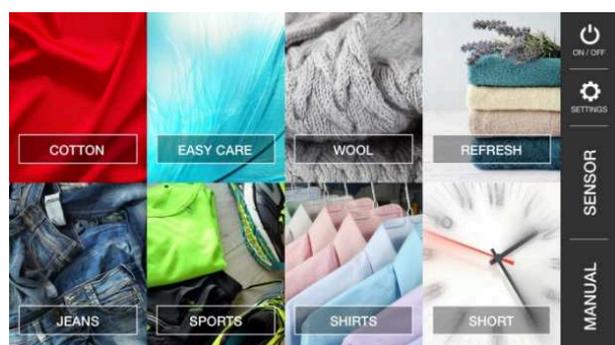


Caption: The EGO Pure Line offers connective displays that combine minimalist design with intuitive user guidance. **Photo: E.G.O.**

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EGO TFT Laundry Care User Interface: Customization in the high-end segment

In the high-end segment, users expect high-quality design and a high degree of customization from household appliances. The EGO TFT user interface for laundry care offers both. With a resolution of 1280 x 720 pixels, the TFT display offers unlimited options for the visual representation of washing or drying programs. In addition, the user interface can be configured with personal settings, depending on user preferences. Additional information such as laundry care instructions can also be displayed. With standard integrated connectivity via Bluetooth Low Energy, the user interface has the prerequisites for control via smartphone or tablet.



Caption: The EGO TFT user interface for laundry care offers unlimited design freedom in the high-end segment and can be configured with personal settings, depending on user preference. **Photo: E.G.O.**

EGO OptiTex sensor: Intelligent laundry drying

Some time ago, E.G.O. presented a color sensor for the washing machine: It detects the color of the laundry, and the machine suggests the appropriate wash program and alerts the user when, for instance, a colored sock gets into the white laundry. The household appliance supplier now presents a sensor module for dryers that makes dryers smarter: the EGO OptiTex sensor. It recognizes fabric materials and measures the temperature and residual moisture content continuously during the drying process. This now makes it possible to implement a fully automatic control system for dryers. The appliance independently selects the right program and optimizes the drying process. The adjusted temperature regulation protects the laundry

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and dries efficiently because the required remaining running time is precisely determined.



Caption: The EGO OptiTex sensor detects the type of laundry material and the humidity in the drum – making it possible to realize the ideal drying program. **Photo: E.G.O.**

EGO Surface Heat Control: Protection against overheating in the dishwasher

One of the main causes of washing machine damage is overheating of the motor components, which is often caused by calcium deposits. E.G.O. has developed a new solution that reliably protects the supplier's thick film heating systems against overheating: The EGO surface heat control is an additional dense network of temperature sensors that is integrated into the surface of the heating element. It continuously measures the surface temperature on the entire surface and thus detects so-called "hot spots" caused by calcium deposits, for example. Depending on the application, the machine can then initiate automatic descaling, notify the user that descaling should be carried out, or turn off automatically when a critical temperature is reached. The EGO surface heat control thus protects the thick film heating system, prolongs the washing machine's service life and saves energy, as

calcified systems consume significantly more power.



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Caption: *The EGO surface heat control for thick film heating elements reliably protects against damage caused by overheating in washing machines.*

Photo: *E.G.O.*

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About the E.G.O. Group

The E.G.O. Group includes 18 sales and production companies in 16 countries. The Group generated around 606 million euros in turnover in 2016 and has around 6,000 employees. The company, which is based in Oberderdingen in Baden-Württemberg, is regarded as one of the leading suppliers to household appliance manufacturers in the world. The company's founder, Karl Fischer, developed his first electric hotplate for series production over 80 years ago. Today, the company produces all of the heating and control elements that are required for cooking, baking, washing, drying, and dishwashing. E.G.O. also delivers components, systems, and technology for the restaurant industry and professional laundries, together with complex components for medical technology, building services, and the automobile industry. More information can be found on the website www.egoproducts.com

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