



THE CENTER ARMREST AS A MULTIFUNCTIONAL ALL-ROUNDER

Most OEMs design the center console with different approaches to use. For example, the area in front of the armrest serves both on the one hand as a cup holder and storage space and today, usually includes an inductive charging function for a smartphone. On the other hand, this space is also used for integrated control systems and there are also combinations of both approaches.

In this case, the Preh Group favors the design as an operating center, because in this way important functions can be selected practically "from the wrist". The latest concept from the HMI specialists features both haptic configurations with three-dimensional tactile aids, slide functions and a touchpad, as well as a control element for selecting the driving mode—everything always with an active or passive haptic feedback.

If displays are used in the area in front of the armrest, then numerous functions can be designed with even more degrees of freedom. This is because the combination of control elements with high-quality surfaces and haptic feedback is supplemented by a direct preview function in the display. This visual confirmation of a function selection occurs with only a brief averting of the driver's gaze from driving.

Depending on the operating intent of the car manufacturer, an individual combination with haptic control elements can also be made. In the case of driving mode selection, for example, a sliding rotary dial or a miniaturized selector lever can be used. In this way, not only can different operating philosophies be implemented, but an iconic operating design with a high recognition value can also clearly distinguish automotive brands.