

PRESS RELEASE

KRONPRINZ unveils a forged aluminum wheel featuring the company's new, advanced X-TRA POLISH + surface coating

Solingen, Germany – March 04, 2026. With the launch of KRONPRINZ Germany GmbH in January 2026, Europe's leading supplier of commercial vehicle wheels successfully introduced forged aluminum wheels in the key 22.5-inch sizes to the European market. The previously available high-gloss polished surface X-TRA POLISH (XP) is now complemented by X-TRA POLISH + (XP+), a sealed and easy-to-clean premium coating.

Surface Coating XP+

For the sealed and easy-to-clean XP+ surface finish, KRONPRINZ relies on a gentle, specialized chemical pre-treatment that is permanently sealed afterwards with a smooth and transparent coating. This mild pre-treatment ensures that the gloss level of the polished wheels is preserved almost entirely, meaning the XP+ coating causes virtually no perceptible loss of shine. The extremely thin yet robust seal - only a few micrometers thick - is ideal for ensuring reliable wheel fastening with minimal settling behavior. In addition, the XP+ coating prevents wheel oxidation and effectively reduces the adhesion of contaminants such as brake dust. As a result, wheels with the XP + finish are exceptionally easy to clean.

“With XP+, we have achieved a true milestone in our development efforts,” says Alexander John, CEO of the KRONPRINZ Group. “The gloss level of the coated wheels is virtually identical to that of freshly polished wheels, while all durability tests demonstrate market-leading corrosion protection and excellent self-cleaning properties,” John adds.”

XP+ was tested by an external laboratory and met all approval criteria with top results. The cross-cut adhesion test according to DIN EN ISO 2409 achieved a GT0 rating after 240 hours. Bubble Formation was also evaluated after 240 hours in accordance with DIN EN ISO 4628-2 and received a score of GT0, both representing the best possible outcomes. In the filiform corrosion test, XP+ achieved a ‘Best in Class’ rating after 696 hours of testing. The maximum infiltration lengths outperformed the current market standard set by the leading manufacturer of forged aluminum commercial vehicle wheels. The market launch of XP+ is planned for the second half of 2026.

Forged Aluminum Wheels

The product range of forged KRONPRINZ aluminum wheels includes sizes 22.5 x 11.75, 22.5 x 9.00, and 22.5 x 8.25. These wheels meet all requirements set by TÜV and the German Federal Motor Transport Authority, as well as the demanding technical specifications of European original equipment manufacturers (EUWA Standards 3.11 and 3.23). KRONPRINZ forged aluminum wheels are developed in Germany and offer TPMS compatibility along with enhanced durability.

Stay tuned...

...for more exciting news from the world of commercial vehicle wheels and experience KRONPRINZ innovations firsthand:

KRONPRINZ will be exhibiting at THE TIRE COLOGNE (June 9 - 11, 2026) and at IAA TRANSPORTATION 2026 (September 15 - 20, 2026).

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About KRONPRINZ Germany GmbH

KRONPRINZ Germany GmbH is a leading supplier of wheels for the European commercial vehicle industry, headquartered in Solingen, Germany. The company's product portfolio includes commercial vehicle wheels made of steel and aluminum. KRONPRINZ was founded in 1897 by Rudolf Kronenberg and Carl Prinz in what is now the Solingen district of Ohligs. www.kronprinz.de