Driver assistance systems make trucks safer and more economical
European field trial confirms effectiveness

MAN’s driver assistance systems increase safety on the roads and reduce fuel consumption. These were the findings of the European research project euroFOT, in which companies and institutions from ten different countries took part. MAN participated in the four-year trial with 57 trucks. The vehicles traveling the long distances throughout the European network were equipped with MAN’s Adaptive Cruise Control (ACC) and Lane Guard System (LGS) driver assistance systems and covered more than 7.5 million kilometers. The impact of electronic driver assistance systems on the road in terms of safety and the environment was examined along with use and acceptance by the driver.

The result: when using ACC, trucks consumed an average of two percent less diesel during the trial period while the average speed increased at the same time. Furthermore, serious incidents like sharp braking or sudden evasive maneuvers were reduced by more than a third. The number of critical distances to the vehicle in front halved. The LGS that warns if the lane is inadvertently left ensures that drivers stay in the lane better and that their steering is smoother. In a survey of the drivers conducted at the end, 94 percent considered the ACC to be a significantly safety-enhancing feature and one of the most important truck assistance systems.

ACC and LGS are offered in the heavy truck series and increasingly in the MAN- and NEOPLAN-branded coaches. LGS is also available for the light- and medium-duty series of the new TG family. MAN will incorporate the field trial findings into the optimization and further development of driver assistance systems.