

## **GKN Driveline's *Direct Torque Flow (DTF)* technology - a first for Audi's new A8 luxury saloon**

**Rösrath, Germany, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2010** The global debut of Audi's entirely new A8 high performance luxury saloon, sees the launch of a new, leading-edge technology propeller shaft solution from GKN Driveline right at the heart of the vehicle's *Quattro*<sup>™</sup> four-wheel drive system. Audi is the first GKN Driveline customer to adopt the company's new Direct Torque Flow (DTF) technology for propeller shafts. The new Audi A8 is also fitted with GKN Driveline's sids shafts.

### ***Direct Torque Flow (DTF)***

GKN Driveline's DTF propeller shaft has been designed to the highest technical standards to meet Audi's challenging performance and specific safety criteria and is the company's first launch of this new technology. DTF is a new interface design solution with which the propeller shaft is connected to the transmission in a way that saves weight, assembly time, space and cost.

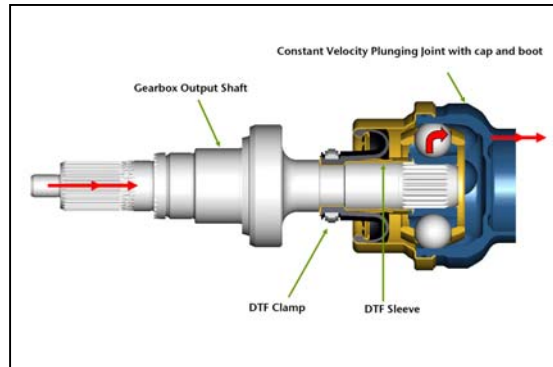
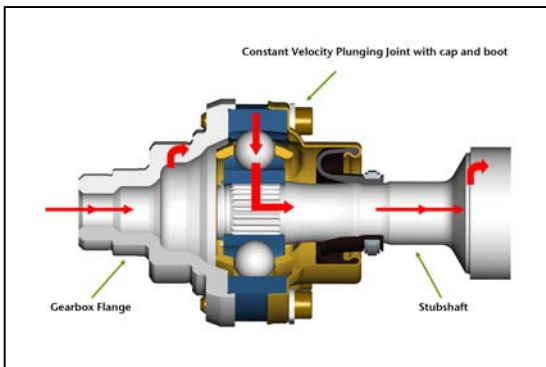
While still ensuring efficient torque transmission, GKN Driveline has developed its DTF solution to reduce component complexity and make significant weight savings, reducing the risks of Noise Vibration and Harshness (NVH) and shaft stability typical in traditional propeller shaft designs. DTF solutions can be used to connect a propeller shaft to both a vehicle's transmission and its rear final drive unit.

Another key feature of the GKN Driveline shaft on the new Audi A8 is the unique high-speed constant velocity joint incorporating technology for efficient operation and an integrated 'crash feature'. The latter, in conjunction with other system components, enables the shaft assembly to telescope inwards in a manner defined to support the crash safety strategy of the vehicle.

With the high performance nature of the vehicle requiring the propeller shaft to operate at extreme speeds of up to 10,500 rpm, GKN Driveline's shaft is designed with a range of other leading-edge features such as the high-strength light-weight steel tube, the sealing systems, and its low-level of rotational imbalance.

**Rob Rickell**, global engineering director for GKN Driveline: "With Audi's leading technology position in the industry, we are very proud to be working with them on such a challenging and rewarding programme as the new A8. This development has required us to use the very best of our expertise and ensure a design that is optimised to deliver Audi's requirements of performance, safety, weight, efficiency and cost.

"GKN Driveline, the global leader in propshaft technology and solutions, has met this challenge through our dedicated development team working closely with our customer."



**Editor's notes:**

**About GKN Driveline**

GKN Driveline is the world's leading supplier of automotive driveline components and systems. As a global company serving the world's leading vehicle manufacturers, GKN Driveline develops, builds and supplies an extensive range of automotive driveline components – for use in the smallest ultra low-cost car to the most sophisticated premium vehicle demanding the most complex driving dynamics.

GKN Driveline is a leading global producer of sids shafts, prop shafts, mechanically and electronically controlled torque management systems and associated geared components.

[www.gkndriveline.com](http://www.gkndriveline.com)

**About the GKN Group**

GKN plc is a global engineering business serving mainly the automotive, industrial, off-highway and aerospace markets. It has operations in more than 30 countries, around 38,000 employees in subsidiaries and joint ventures and had sales of £4.5 billion in the year to 31 December 2009. GKN plc is listed on the London Stock Exchange (LSE: GKN).

[www.gkn.com](http://www.gkn.com)

**Company Contact:**

Paul Dinwiddy  
Global Communication Director  
GKN Driveline  
Phone: + 44 1527 533 646  
Mobile: + 44 7801 077 523  
E-mail: [paul.dinwiddy@gkndriveline.com](mailto:paul.dinwiddy@gkndriveline.com)

**Media Contact – Europe:**

Simon Pearson  
Phone: + 44 207 861 3158  
Mobile: + 44 7836 744 192  
E-mail: [simon@s-pearson.com](mailto:simon@s-pearson.com)

**Media Contact – Americas:**

Larry Weis  
AutoCom Associates  
Phone: + 1 248 647 8621  
Cell: + 1 248 705 4448  
E-mail: [lweis@usautocom.com](mailto:lweis@usautocom.com)

**Media Contact – Japan:**

Yoshinori Yamaguchi  
Inoue Public Relations  
Phone: + 81 35 269 2301  
E-mail: [yamaguchi@inoue-pr.com](mailto:yamaguchi@inoue-pr.com)