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WHEELY-SAFE WINS NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY AWARD

Global Michelin licensee Wheely-Safe is celebrating after its Michelin Wheel Security and Tyre Pressure Management System (TPMS) Heavy Fleet secured the prestigious Transport Technology of the Year Award at the National Technology Awards in London last night.

Launched at the IAA Show in Hanover, Germany, in September 2018, the Michelin Wheel Security & TPMS Heavy Fleet is the world's first in-motion driver alert system to detect the onset of wheel loss from buses, coaches, trucks, trailers and heavy plant before detachment.

Wheely-Safe was one of eight companies shortlisted for the award, presented at the Marriott Hotel in Grosvenor Square. The National Technology Awards celebrate the pioneers of technology and encourage excellence across the sector.

Gary Broadfield, Group Managing Director of Wheely-Safe and the inventor behind the technology, said: "In winning this award, the judges recognised that we'd taken an entirely fresh approach to tackling wheel loss. Our solution means that, for the first time, a driver will receive an alert the instant a potential wheel loss issue is detected, allowing them to pull over safely."

The Michelin Wheel Security and TPMS Heavy Fleet is a simple, intuitive, low cost, and extremely effective system which sees a sensor straddle two wheel nuts thanks to a specially designed bracket – with a pair fitted to each wheel. If a nut starts to loosen by just 1mm of movement, a signal is instantly transmitted to the solar-powered display unit, alerting the driver to pull over.

Due to its location next to the wheel rim and braking mechanism, the system's onboard heat sensor can also detect brake issues involving low or high temperatures, including when they exceed 90°C – a reading that could indicate maintenance issues such as sticking brakes or hub failure. An inbuilt TPMS is also provided, with sensors replacing the traditional valve caps and auto-pairing with the display unit, which fixes onto the windscreen.

Gary Thomas, Group Director and co-founder of Wheely-Safe, adds: "No single technology adopted by any OEM or aftermarket supplier has tackled these issues effectively until now. Winning this award reinforces the potential for this new product on the market – both in the UK and around the world."

Its launch follows nearly a decade refining and miniaturising the original concept – as well as securing a series of complex, global patents. Michelin signed Wheely-Safe as a global licensee shortly after seeing the technology in action.

Despite all the advances in modern vehicles, wheel detachment has continued to be a major cause of concern and is widely recognised as an international problem. A Transport Research Laboratory report into wheel loss on commercial vehicles, published for the Department for Transport, estimated that the annual frequency of wheel fixing problems in the UK stands at between 7,500 and 11,000 incidents. Of these, some 150 to 400 result in actual wheel detachments, with 50 to 134 causing damage, 10 to 27 leading to injury and between 3 and 7 resulting in a fatality.

The award was presented to Andy Congrave, Sales Director of Wheely-Safe, and Stephen Graham, ONCall and Internal Sales Manager at Michelin Tyre plc.

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Notes to editor:

Wheely-Safe Ltd is a technology start-up founded in 2010 by two lifelong friends – Gary Thomas, a Director of his own transport compliance consultancy, and Gary Broadfield, a Director of Technology and serial inventor for a large Japanese electronics manufacturer. Together they brought the marriage of skills required to help solve wheel loss issues in the automotive sector, and to tackle the huge number of vehicles driving every day on under-inflated tyres. The early years of Wheely-Safe concentrated on attaining worldwide patent protection and technology small enough to fit near the wheels of all vehicle types, from cars and vans to trucks and trailers – with its first products launched into the market during 2018. www.wheely-safe.com

For further press information please contact:

James Keeler at Garnett Keeler PR on 020 8647 4467 or by email to james.keeler@garnettkeeler.com

To access Wheely-Safe's online newsroom please visit <http://www.gk.news/wheelysafe>

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