



PRESS RELEASE

**SOGEFI: NEW PATENTED LIGHTWEIGHT SPRINGS  
TO BE INTRODUCED BY AUDI BY YEAR END**

*The jointly-developed innovative glass fiber reinforced polymer (GFRP) coil springs will be launched in an upper mid-size Audi model*

**Milan, July 3 2014 - Sogefi's patented coil spring technology has been jointly developed together with Audi for market introduction before year-end. Audi will be the world's first car manufacturer to launch this technology in series production.**

Sogefi, one of the world leaders in filtration systems and flexible suspension components as well as air management and engine cooling systems, has **patented this new type of coil spring made from glass fiber reinforced polymer (GFRP) which weighs between 40 and 70% less than the traditional steel springs**. The new GFRP coil springs can be assembled on cars and light commercial vehicles without affecting the suspension system architecture allowing for a **weight reduction of 4-6 kilos per vehicle** (depending on coil spring design and type of vehicle) **and a significant reduction of the unsprung mass**. The resulting benefits range from more precise driving, lower consumption with consequent reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (up to – 0.5 g per km), enhanced noise-vibrational-harshness (NVH) comfort and full protection against corrosion.

**Guglielmo Fiocchi, CEO of Sogefi**, said: *“Research and development is a key factor for the future growth of Sogefi. Innovation in the car sector, starting from reducing weight and improving the efficiency of vehicles, now depends significantly on the components companies. Sogefi in particular is gradually increasing its investment in research and development, which has gone up in recent years from around 2% to just under 3% of its total revenues. We are very proud of the choice that Audi has made”.*

This innovation also guarantees a significant reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions during the manufacturing process as the overall energy required is significantly lower than in traditional steel coil spring manufacturing.

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**Sogefi**

Sogefi (CIR group), founded in 1980 and listed on the Milan Stock Exchange, is a company which operates in the automotive components sector in two business areas in which it is a world leader: the development and production of flexible suspension components and systems for managing, filtering and cooling engine fluids. Present in 21 countries with 43 production plants and 17 commercial offices, Sogefi is partner to the most important vehicle construction companies worldwide. The group is a leader in Europe and South America in its core businesses, operating in the original equipment market and the OE and independent aftermarket. Thanks to its commitment to research, Sogefi has been continually improving the technological development of its parts, optimizing their performance in terms of life cycle, effectiveness, size, weight and compatibility with the environment. In 2013 the Sogefi group reported revenues of approximately 1.3 billion euro. For information visit the website [www.sogefigroup.com](http://www.sogefigroup.com).

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