MAHLE Powertrain has introduced a new end-to-end test and development process that helps vehicle manufacturers achieve the optimal powertrain configuration for any given application. The development process, which has been designed to help meet the challenges posed by new real-world emissions testing targets, is broken down into five key stages: steady state powertrain testing; transient powertrain testing; four-wheel drive dyno testing; and on-road RDE testing all linked via vehicle simulation.

The initial simulation phase allows early understanding of powertrain operation requirements over RDE cycles and enables optimisation of transmission and hybrid control strategies before physical hardware is available. This phase involves an early assessment of RDE boundary conditions based on three key factors: vehicle performance, driving style and test route characteristics. MAHLE applies advanced analysis techniques to generate a test programme for implementation throughout the complete development process. Hundreds of digitised RDE routes are used to simulate the varying traffic conditions, road layouts and topographies that are experienced in real-world driving scenarios.
MAHLE Powertrain RDE Process

Steady State Powertrain Testing

- Initial testing of prototype powertrain hardware
- Steady state dyno with constant speed and load values
- Optimised base engine mapping
  - Advanced DoE tools
  - Automated testbed running
- RDE vehicle simulation feedback loop
  - Increased model accuracy
  - Performance assessment without physical hardware
- Reduced project cost and prototype hardware reliance

Powertrain System Simulation

- Transient testing phase at higher levels of maturity
- Simulation of complete drive cycles
  - In line with specific territory regulations
  - Precise recording of emissions
- Conduction of analysis correlation
- Validation of powertrain performance

PEMS System

- Certified real-world drives on VCA approved RDE routes
- Test vehicles fitted with PEMS (Powertrain’s Portable Emissions Measurement System)
  - Measures tailpipe emissions
- Systems capable of achieving emissions compliance

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