Daimler secures its partnership with Tesla

- Equity Collar agreement for Tesla shareholding concluded
- Bodo Uebber: “We want to continue and intend to broaden the partnership with Tesla in the coming years.”

Stuttgart – Daimler AG is securing its partnership with Tesla Motors, Inc. (“Tesla”). On December 20, 2013, Daimler concluded a three year equity collar transaction with respect to its holding of approximately 4% in Tesla after closing of the stock market in New York. In connection with this transaction, it is currently expected that Daimler will continue to own Tesla securities for at least three more years. The objective of the transaction concluded is to protect the value of Daimler’s shareholding in Tesla, whilst allowing Daimler to retain significant participation in any further appreciation of Tesla share price during the three year collar agreement.

Daimler expects to continue to work with Tesla on existing and new strategic projects in the years to come, and currently intends to continue to exercise its stockholder voting rights for the term of the collar. Daimler has cooperated successfully with Tesla for several years and currently intends to broaden and deepen its partnership in the coming years.

Tesla develops the complete drivetrain for the Mercedes-Benz
B-Class Electric Drive, which will be launched in 2014. The batteries for the second-generation smart fortwo electric drive, the best-selling electric car in Germany, are also from Tesla.

“Tesla’s innovation, which is helping to drive the rising demand for electric vehicles, proves that we made the right decision by acquiring a stake in Tesla at an early stage, and that we are cooperating with the right partner,” said Bodo Uebber, Member of the Board of Management of Daimler AG for Finance and Controlling and the Daimler Financial Services division, as well as for Mergers and Acquisitions. “We are protecting our investment in Tesla against share price fluctuations”, explained Uebber. “In this way, we are also demonstrating the long-term nature of our partnership and our intention to continue and to broaden the partnership in the coming years.”

This document contains forward-looking statements that reflect our current views about future events. The words “anticipate,” “assume,” “believe,” “estimate,” “expect,” “intend,” “may,” “can,” “could,” “plan,” “project,” “should” and similar expressions are used to identify forward-looking statements. These statements are subject to many risks and uncertainties, including an adverse development of global economic conditions, in particular a decline of demand in our most important markets; a worsening of the sovereign-debt crisis in the Eurozone; an exacerbation of the budgetary situation in the United States; a deterioration of our refinancing possibilities on the credit and financial markets; events of force majeure including natural disasters, acts of terrorism, political unrest, industrial accidents and their effects on our sales, purchasing, production or financial services activities; changes in currency exchange rates; a shift in consumer preference towards smaller, lower-margin vehicles; or a possible lack of acceptance of our products or services which limits our ability to achieve prices and adequately utilize our production capacities; price increases in fuel or raw materials; disruption of production due to shortages of materials, labor strikes or supplier insolvencies; a decline in resale prices of used vehicles; the effective implementation of cost-reduction and efficiency-optimization measures; the business outlook of companies in which we hold a significant equity interest; the successful implementation of strategic cooperations and joint ventures; changes in laws, regulations and government policies, particularly those relating to vehicle emissions, fuel economy and safety; the resolution of pending government investigations and the conclusion of pending or threatened future legal proceedings; and other risks and uncertainties, some of which we describe under the heading “Risk Report” in Daimler’s most recent Annual Report. If any of these risks and uncertainties materialize or if the assumptions underlying any of our forward-looking statements prove to be incorrect, the actual results may be materially different from those we express or imply by such statements. We do not intend or assume any obligation to update these forward-looking statements since they are based solely on the circumstances at the publication date.
Further Investor Relations information on Daimler is available on the Internet via www.daimler.com/investors and on handhelds via www.daimler.mobi/ir.

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