Press Release *November 16, 2026*

Marelli wins SAA Innovations in Lightweighting Award for its Gallium Nitride Driver Unit

Marelli, a global mobility technology supplier to the automotive sector, has received the prestigious Innovations in Lightweighting Award from SAA, the Society of Automotive Analysts, for its Gallium Nitride (GaN) Driver Unit. The award recognizes suppliers for innovative products and technologies that provide direct or indirect mass savings, supporting the automotive industry's drive for greater efficiency and sustainability. The recognition was presented during the 2026 SAA Materials Innovation Summit in Auburn Hills, Michigan, U.S., on November 11, 2026.

Initially developed for automotive headlamps, the unit can reduce weight by up to 25% and size by up to 40% compared to silicon-based driver units currently on the market. It also reduces power losses, helping drivers use their vehicle's energy more efficiently while maintaining the lighting performance expected from conventional silicon-based solutions. In addition, the lighter, more compact unit is expected to offer benefits from lower energy use and improved manufacturing productivity during installation.

The unit's DC-DC (direct current to direct current) converter adapts the vehicle's electrical supply to the needs of the headlamps. In its power stages, gallium nitride, a semiconductor material, replaces conventional silicon in the transistors that switch electrical power. GaN enables faster switching with lower energy losses. The weight savings come from smaller auxiliary components, such as inductors, more compact circuit boards and the removal of heat sinks. For vehicle makers, this means lighter, more compact lighting electronics with lower material requirements and greater design flexibility.

This design also supports more efficient use of manufacturing materials: smaller printed circuit boards allow more boards to be produced from each panel, improving material utilization and manufacturing productivity. Together, reduced material requirements and lower energy losses provide a concrete link between lightweighting, efficiency and the sustainability goals recognized by the award.

Designed for high-volume vehicle applications, the GaN Driver Unit features a streamlined design requiring no additional supporting parts or systems. Initial development focuses on headlamps, with potential future use cases including dynamic ground projection and power supplies for displays integrated into front and rear lamps.

"We are honored to receive this award, which recognizes our team's ability to turn lighting and electronics expertise into value for vehicle makers," said **Peter Cao**, President of Marelli's Lighting business. *"For our customers, lightweighting is about balancing design flexibility, energy efficiency and cost competitiveness. Our GaN Driver Unit brings these priorities together, showing how innovation at component level can help them meet increasingly demanding requirements."*

About Marelli

Marelli is a global mobility technology supplier to the automotive industry. With a strong and established track record in innovation and manufacturing excellence, our mission is to transform the future of mobility through working with customers and partners to create a safer, greener, and better-connected world. With around 40,000 employees worldwide, the Marelli footprint includes over 150 sites globally. For more information, visit the Marelli website at www.marelli.com.