

Pfronstetten-Aichelau, September 12, 2025

Roland Arnold receives honorary award for Motorworld Book Prize 2025, which honors mobility pioneers.

It was a great honor for Roland Arnold, the founder and managing director of PARAVAN GmbH, to be awarded the honorary prize in the biography category at the 2025 Motorworld Book Awards for his autobiography, Genial gezündet – Der Gamechanger der Fahrzeugindustrie mit meiner Drive-by-Wire-Erfindung (Brilliantly Ignited: The Game Changer in the Automotive Industry with My Drive-by-Wire Invention).



It is a great honor for Roland Arnold (left). The founder and managing director of PARAVAN GmbH received the honorary award in the biography category at the 2025 MOTORWORLD Book Awards. Jury chairman and laudator Jürgen Lewandowski (right) presented the award. Photo: CanVanCan

The jury was deeply impressed by the extraordinary lifetime achievements of the Swabian inventor and entrepreneur. In his laudatory speech, industry expert and author Jürgen Lewandowski praised Arnold's entrepreneurial courage and social vision. "Roland built an incomparable company from scratch with the credo that everyone has the right to mobility. He made it possible for people with disabilities, and his passion and humanity never cease to amaze me."

Arnold's tireless efforts to bring his vision to life were emphasized, from securing the approval of vehicles for people with disabilities to inventing the Space Drive drive-by-wire system – a fundamental technology for autonomous driving that evolved from his initial focus on mobility for people with disabilities. What began as a personal concern has evolved into a cornerstone of modern mobility concepts, both in rehabilitation and in the future development of the automotive industry.

"This story is incredible. You have to read it to believe it," said Lewandowski. "Developing a global idea from a niche and seeing it through despite all the resistance is unique." Visibly moved, Roland Arnold expressed his gratitude: "When I walk through the IAA today and see how many prototypes are on the road with my technology, it makes me proud. Space Drive was developed for people with disabilities and has become an essential component of autonomous driving."

This year marked the 20th annual MOTORWORLD Book Award ceremony in Munich, which has long been one of the most prestigious awards in automotive literature. From the approximately 90 new publications submitted, the five-member expert jury selected the best works of the year in six categories. The diversity of this year's award winners – from legendary brands such as Porsche and Ferrari to biographical portraits of notable figures like Michael Schumacher – demonstrates the cultural significance of automotive literature today. These books are more than reference works; they are cultural assets that preserve technological history, design tradition, and human passion for future generations. The book Genial gezündet is available from PARAVAN GmbH or in bookshops.



Group photo with awards: The winners of the MOTORWORLD Book Award 2025 at the award ceremony at MOTORWORLD Munich – including Roland Arnold from PARAVAN GmbH (1st row, 5th from left) with the honorary biography award. Photo: CanVanCan

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About Paravan GmbH:

PARAVAN GmbH is the global market leader in customized vehicle solutions for the disabled people. About 160 employees at the Pfrontstetten Aichelau and Heidelberg sites develop and produce customized vehicle conversions, electric wheelchairs and even specialized driver training. PARAVAN pursues a holistic approach with its "one-stop shop" concept. The technological highlight is Space Drive, an intelligent digital control system based on the drive-by-wire principle. Thanks to the active redundancy of the servo motors, it is completely fail-safe and the first to be approved for road use. This innovation enables severely disabled people, some of whom have no arms or legs, to drive independently and safely. It is not possible for these drivers to simply take control of the steering wheel. Over the past 20 years, Space Drive has been proven on more than one billion kilometers of roads worldwide and is used by numerous industrial customers for test vehicles in the field of autonomous driving. The system is available as a retrofit kit with an open interface for all known vehicle types. www.paravan.com