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T: +44 (0)1384 568144

E: sales@brightonbest.org

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/// **SPOTLIGHT** \

GROWERMETAL INNOVATES AGAIN:

INTRODUCING THE NEW **Grower OhmLock®**

Last October, **Growermetal** presented its exclusive product for electric vehicle applications. Designed for battery pack fixing, the **Grower OhmLock** conical washer ensures reliable fastening and maintains smooth electric power flow.

Growermetal, the Italian manufacturer of washers and special parts, has unveiled its latest breakthrough in response to the demands of the electric vehicle (EV) sector: Grower OhmLock®. First introduced at the 2024 edition of the International Suppliers Fair (IZB) in Wolfsburg, this innovative conical washer represents a significant step forward in addressing the need of modern EV applications for electrical conductivity and corrosion resistance.

"IZB was the perfect platform to present our Grower OhmLock® for the first time," says Paolo Cattaneo, CEO of Growermetal. "Showing this achievement in front of an international audience of manufacturers, suppliers and visitors from the automotive supply chain was a great opportunity, and receiving positive feedback was truly rewarding."

Meeting the growing needs of E-Mobility

As the automotive industry shifts towards electrification, the challenges for fastener manufacturers are increasing. The evolution of technologies calls for components that ensure not only mechanical integrity but also efficient energy transfer. Grower OhmLock was born out of this necessity. Crafted from quenched and tempered carbon steel, this conical washer was designed to offer electrical performance and mechanical durability, making it an ideal solution for EV applications.

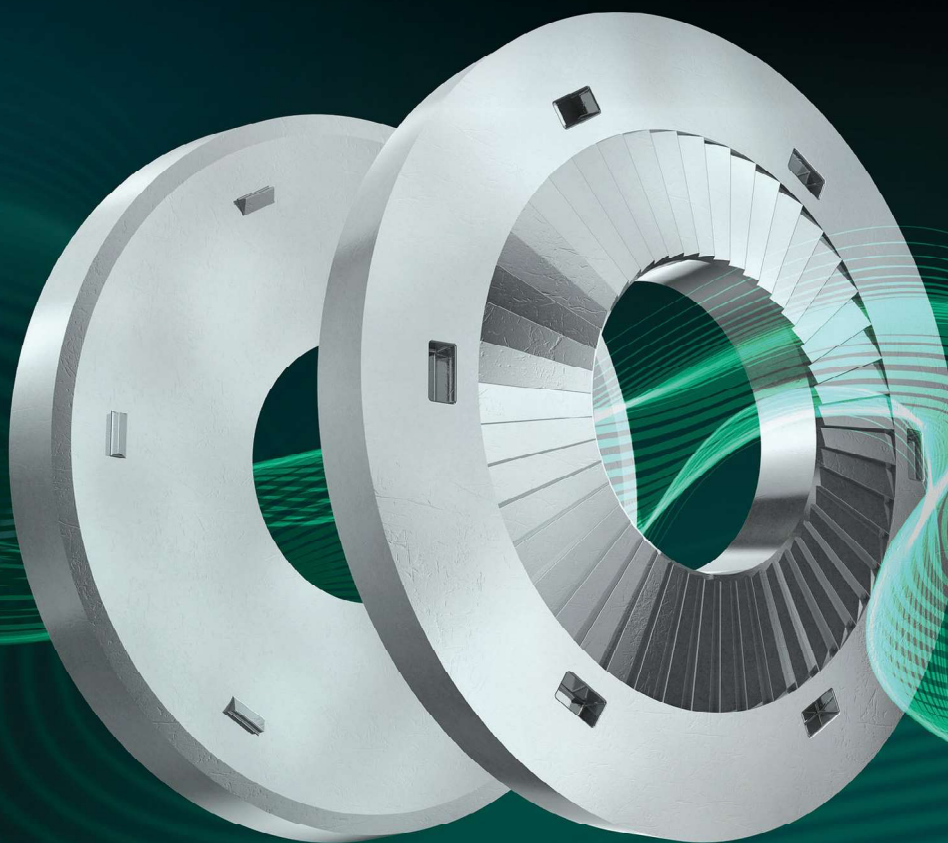
"Grower OhmLock is the result of the research, collaboration and dedication of our R&D team," explains Paolo. "We aimed to create a fastener that guarantees safe, uninterrupted electric power flow while withstanding the challenges of EVs. This washer is our response to the industry's request for high-performance and reliable fastening solutions, focusing on the increasing electrification process experienced by the automotive market."

Seeking superior performance through a unique design

The innovation of Grower OhmLock lies in its dual-sided design, with knurling on the top surface and sharp protrusions on the bottom side. This geometry was specifically developed for battery pack applications, to guarantee optimal fastening and energy transfer. The objective of the R&D team was to safely secure the parts to the vehicle's chassis, that are subjected to extreme conditions like high vibration and environmental factors.

By minimising the risk of external corrosion and reducing electrical resistance, Grower OhmLock maintains seamless power flow, preventing potential failures. Additionally, the washer's design ensures that coatings remain undamaged during fastening, offering long-term reliability. All these characteristics make the conical washer effective not just for fastening the battery pack, but also for car underbody applications, which are often exposed to harsh weather conditions.

// The introduction of Grower OhmLock marks a significant step in the evolution of Growermetal's fastening technologies for automotive. //



Research and collaboration

Grower OhmLock® was engineered in partnership with Brugola OEB with the goal to avoid oxidation and loosening over time in the bolted joint connections for EV battery pack. Its geometry secures the components without damaging paint coatings while minimising the risk of external corrosion. The result is a product that prevents failures or malfunctions, ensures a smooth and uninterrupted power flow and maintains low electrical resistance.

"Grower OhmLock® is the result of extensive research and collaboration across our development team and one of our important automotive bolt maker customers" says Paolo Cattaneo, CEO of Growermetal SpA.

A legacy of innovation and a new sales branch

Growermetal's success in developing exclusive fastener solutions isn't new. Previous products like Grower TenKeep® and Grower SpheraTech® – which respectively won third and second place at the Route to Fastener Innovation award in 2019 and 2023 – and the recent Grower Detecto® and Grower Reaction®, are examples of the company's commitment to creating innovation and enhance customer's applications.

Grower OhmLock joins this range of branded designs, providing a solution tailored to meet the rigorous demands of the e-mobility market. In addition, to enhance the service for this sector and many others, Growermetal has recently opened a new German sales branch: Growermetal Germany GmbH.

"To develop suitable products, it is important to stay in dialogue with the market," says Klaus Vogt, General Manager of Growermetal Germany GmbH. "The essential goal is to further make the Growermetal brand known in Germany and Europe. To do this, we will first intensify relationships with our existing

customers and inform them about new products, approvals and everything important. Of course, we also want to gain new customers and cooperation partners in the future."

With this new product, Growermetal aims to solidify its reputation as a washer manufacturer specialized in high-performance, safety-driven fastening systems. "A lot has changed in recent years, especially in the automotive sector. The switch to electromobility also presents fastener manufacturers with new challenges," adds Klaus. "With a perfect balance between electrical conductivity and corrosion resistance, Growermetal has developed an exclusive fastening solution for electric mobility."

The future of fastening in E-Mobility

Supported by its 70-year-long experience and three sales branches in North America, South America and Europe, Growermetal combines its innovation attitude with solid and integrated manufacturing system, in order to offer a timely and efficient service to international customers.

The introduction of Grower OhmLock marks a significant step in the evolution of Growermetal's fastening technologies for automotive. As electric vehicles become more prevalent, the need for reliable components that enhance safety and performance will only increase. Grower OhmLock is designed to meet this evolution, providing manufacturers with a solution that ensures the longevity and reliability of their products.

"Our goal has always been to develop products that meet or possibly exceed customer expectations, and Grower OhmLock is no exception," says Paolo Cattaneo. "We are confident that this product will play a role in the development of the electric vehicle sector, contributing to an electric-oriented future."

www.growermetal.com