



## ***RISING TO THE CHALLENGE*** ***Interview with Julia Wingertszahn,*** ***team leader of Team Wegberg***

The 3rd Annual DENSO Challenge came to a close on the 30<sup>th</sup> of January 2018, with the final event showcasing many interesting ideas from the bright young minds of this year's participants. Team Wegberg, this year's DENSO Challenge winner, presented a car of the future with features designed to be environmentally friendly, semi-autonomous, lightweight and, most importantly, suitable for everyday life.

DENSO Connection had a quick Q&A with team leader, Julia Wingertszahn, who shared some of her thoughts and experiences while working on this year's challenge.

**Could you tell us a little bit about yourself? For example, where are you from? What are your interests?**

I'm Julia Wingertszahn, a German student from the Maximilian Kolbe Gymnasium Wegberg. Wegberg is a little city in the west of North Rhine Westphalia with a direct connection to the Netherlands. Actually, it's in the border area between Germany and the Netherlands. DENSO AUTOMOTIVE Aachen is also based here.

In my free time, I like dancing Ballet, playing the piano or the clarinet, sailing or reading books.

**How would you compare this year's experience to your experience in the previous year?**

Last year I joined the DENSO Challenge for the first time together with a group of students my grade. While taking part we learned lots of new things and got great insights into the real working environment and the structure of a big company like DENSO. We really enjoyed working on our topic, which was to create a safe and sustainable car for the future.

This year I was the team leader of Team Wegberg and worked together with three students from the grade below me: Luisa Gerlach, Sophia Schreinemacher, Loreen Lederhuber.

*Right: Julia Wingertszahn, team leader of DENSO Challenge 2017's winning group, Team Wegberg.*

*Below: Julia with Team Wegberg members Luisa Gerlach, Sophia Schreinemacher and Loreen Lederhuber.*



We worked really well together and not only formed a group but became close friends. For me personally, both years were an absolutely great experience because I learned interesting new aspects and met lots of new people I could exchange my thoughts and ideas with.

As a team, it was great that our work paid off and we are really happy to win the DENSO Challenge 2017.

### **What was your favorite part of the challenge?**

I really enjoyed working together with my team. It was exciting to meet new people and learn together with students from the Netherlands about topics we are all interested in – namely cars.

While we worked on our presentations, two DENSO staff members helped us to come up with ideas. We could ask them everything so we really got an overview on safety and sustainability.

### **How has the project helped you with your daily activities? Has the experience influenced you in any way?**

Because of my new experiences and insights, I think differently about safety and sustainability and what our future could look like. I had the opportunity to get insights into the company and could imagine working in this sector later.

### **Would you recommend that other students participate in the DENSO Challenge initiative?**

I would recommend joining the DENSO Challenge to students who would like to learn more about safety and sustainability, who would like to get insights into a company which cooperates internationally, and those who would like to meet new people, exchange ideas and work together on a topic as a team.

### **What are the top three take-aways you have gotten from the DENSO Challenge?**

Probably lots of new experiences, great moments and we had a lot of fun working as a team on our topic.

### **What do you think we could improve for the future? What are your suggestions for improvement?**

I really liked the first meeting with CNME where we learned about sustainability in general. It would be cool if you extended this part a little more so that the students taking part in the challenge are getting an even better overview.

The first time we met in Maastricht we saw two videos published by Prince Ea (Sorry, Next Generation, and MAN vs EARTH). I would recommend showing these videos to future participants because they are really effective and make you think about the topic more.