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The system responds to driver inputs and road conditions, connecting and disengaging drive to the rear axle on demand. By eliminating rotating losses from the driveline, during steady state cruising fuel efficiency can be improved by up to 4% compared to permanent all-wheel drive systems.



The same hardware can support models built on a common platform but with different performance requirements. GKN's software engineers fine-tune the electronic control to deliver specific brand characteristics.

—Senior Vice President of Engineering, Rob Rickell

A dedicated driveline control unit continuously monitors vehicle dynamics and environmental conditions, disconnecting the AWD system during steady-state driving speeds when the AWD function is not needed. If the driver or conditions require more traction, the AWD system reconnects within 300 milliseconds.

As global demand for smaller, more efficient SUVs continues to grow, GKN's Disconnect All-Wheel Drive System will help open new markets. This compact new system enables manufacturers to offer customers more capable and dynamic vehicles with improved fuel-efficiency and CO₂ emissions.

—Hannes Prens, Senior Program Director

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