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HYBRID SPARK PLUG OE SUCCESS FOR NGK WITH NEW AUDI R8

NGK Spark Plugs (UK) Limited, the leading spark plug manufacturer, has announced that it has been selected as the exclusive OE supplier of hybrid type spark plugs to the new Audi R8, Audi's first mid-engine series production sports car.

The current 2.0l FSI (A3) and the 3.2l FSI (A6) applications are sparked exclusively by NGK as is the high output engine in the Audi R54 B7. The latter car was the first time that Audi took a high revving engine to series production two years ago. The same engine – a 4.2l V8 FSI with direct injection – 309 kW / 420 HP – now accelerates the new Audi R8 to a maximum speed of nearly 190 mph at 8,520 rpm.



NGK developed a hybrid type spark plug to meet the high demands of this high-revving engine. The PFR7W-T which sparks the R8 combines the features of precious metal spark plugs with a semi-surface technology developed by NGK to solve the carbon fouling problems associated with direct injection engines. In this design a conventional ground electrode is supplemented by two smaller ground electrodes close to the nose of the ceramic insulator. If carbon deposits prevent the spark from firing at the primary ground electrode then the spark will travel across the insulator to one of the secondary electrodes and burn off the carbon deposit until sparking takes place again at the primary electrode, so guaranteeing reliable ignition.

An exceptionally small diameter platinum centre electrode – 0.6mm – minimises the required ignition voltage and provides an optimal expansion of the flame front within the combustion chamber. Additionally, the high durability of the platinum electrode allows an extended service life of 60,000 miles. The spark gap remains virtually the same over the plugs' complete lifetime and therefore offers perfect ignition results.

PRESS RELEASE



“The outstanding results which our hybrid type spark plugs have been providing to Audi for some years has convinced Audi to go with NGK again to spark its new sporting flagship car,” says Brian Childs, NGK Spark Plugs UK Deputy Managing Direct. “This success is yet a further proof of the way that modern engine concepts and NGK’s ignition technology match each other to perfection.”