

Alternators & Starters

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The Cartel

The EC found that for more than five years, the three Japanese car parts manufacturers coordinated prices and allocated customers or projects with regards to alternators and starters, two important components of car engines. Although contacts associated with forming and running the cartel took place outside the European Economic Area (EEA), the cartel affected European customers as alternators and starters were also sold directly to car manufacturers in the EEA, stated the European Commission.

The cartel concerned alternators and starters, two important components of car engines that are used by cars manufacturers and bought by consumers.

The European Commissioner Margrethe Vestager stated: "Breaking cartels remains a top priority for the Commission, in particular when they affect important consumer goods, such as cars. Today's decision sanctions three car part producers whose collusion affected component costs for a number of car manufacturers selling cars in Europe, and ultimately European consumers buying them. If European consumers are affected by a cartel, the Commission will investigate it even if the cartel meetings took place outside Europe."