

German Hearing Aid Wins Design Award

A panel at a competition organized by the regional government of the German state of Niedersachsen gave hearing-aid maker HRS Engineering GmbH (Bremgarten, Switzerland) a design award for its Audifon switch, a digital hearing aid designed on behalf of German manufacturer Kind Hörgeräte (Hannover, Germany). The award was presented at the Hannover Exhibition Center during CeBIT 2007.

The jury praised the hearing aid's multifunctionality, modular design, and simple assembly. Designed to be comfortable to wear and intuitive to use, the unit can be worn inconspicuously behind the ear and is available in a range of colours. An example of the unit's multifunctionality can be found in the electric connector linking the receiver to the device. The connector is a thin metal cable that serves as both the power feed and ear hook. Miniature mechanical-electrical snap-on connections are designed to simplify earpiece replacement. The device's digital sound processor offers a range of acoustic technology features such as a six-band equalizer, adaptive noise suppression, and feedback management.

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