

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **BlockageDetect - An optical blockage detection system for pneumatic fertiliser spreaders**

RAUCH Landmaschinenfabrik GmbH presents the innovative BlockageDetect system. A safe and comfortable monitoring of the fertiliser conveying on the pneumatic spreader. This technology enables fast and efficient action for resource-saving and precise fertilising.

The pneumatic fertiliser spreader is equipped with two camera systems on the booms, which focus on each individual outlet manifold.

Using artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms, an image recognition system can observe and analyse the continuously generated images of all outlet manifolds and the conveyance of the particles. Due to the high contrast between the fertiliser grains and the black deflector plates, the flow of fertiliser can be detected very reliably even in backlit conditions with low sun or reduced light conditions in the evening. An additional lens on the camera can be used to focus the image on the different distances between the manifolds.

The AI algorithms have been trained based on extensive data collection. The data pipeline uses a state-of-the-art algorithm from META to process and segment the data. The BlockageDetect system is automatically activated during the entire spreading process. If a malfunction occurs on an outlet manifold, the user is notified via an alarm message. The affected outlet manifold or several outlet manifolds are displayed in the alarm. The display of the outlet number makes it very easy to assign and check.

A family company, RAUCH was founded in 1921 and today is an internationally active manufacturer of agricultural and municipal services technology. The headquarters of the company are located in Rheinmünster near Baden-Baden. RAUCH develops and builds high-quality machines for fertiliser spreading and spreading technology for municipal winter services. In addition, RAUCH is an original equipment manufacturer of seed drill technology components. In the 2022 financial year, a turnover of 407 million euros was achieved with 407 employees. Around 73 percent of the products manufactured are exported.

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