To meet rapidly expanding vehicle functionality demands and achieve greater design flexibility, designers of body electronics and safety applications for auto manufacturers can now benefit from a stackable and modular unsealed system that allows for easy connection without custom tooling.

**BUSINESS CHALLENGE**

With the proliferation of infotainment, safety and body electronics features in vehicles, there is a corresponding constraint being placed on the number of terminals available for devices and modules. Increasing terminal requirements are forcing designers of body electronics and safety applications to invest in costly custom tooling to maintain design flexibility. As different terminal strategies and designs are employed, circuit connectors for various applications are purchased from multiple sources, adding to the complexity of the end design of the connector interface. This leads to mismating and faulty connections and a rise in the number of quality complaints. Custom multi-bay configurations also require extensive assembly and validation time, slowing production lead times and adding to labor costs.

To achieve greater design flexibility without custom tooling, a need existed in the marketplace for a modular connector system that would meet industry standard automotive footprints based on the widely accepted 0.50mm, 1.20mm and 2.80mm terminal sizes.

**SOLUTION**

Leveraging industry-approved terminal design, Molex developed the first through-hole, single-to multi-bay hybrid connector system designed to deliver both signal and Ethernet connectivity through one low footprint.

The stAK50h Unsealed Connection System features standard USCAR color-coded housings to support visual polarization and ease assembly of connector systems. A Connector Position Assurance (CPA) latching feature ensures proper connector mating and protects against accidental disengagement of male and female connectors, leading to fewer quality issues and improved assembly production.

The stackable and modular header design eliminates custom tooling and dramatically reduces the time needed for engineering and validation of multi-bay configurations.

The stAK50h offering ranges from 12- to 32-circuit receptacles, which can be used in applications from low-current signal (5.0A) to high-power (30.0A). By working with a one-stop-solution supplier, customers also stand to benefit in the form of minimized administrative costs, easier ordering and fewer issues with coordination efforts.

**KEY BENEFITS**

The stAK50h Connection System enables faster design changes, eases assembly and provides for greater design flexibility.

- Stackable design and color coding eliminates polarization issues
- Compliant to USCAR-2 and global automotive OEM standards
- Latching feature ensures fewer quality issues and improved assembly production
- PCB stand-offs molded into header housings provide additional trace-routing

To learn more [www.molex.com/link/stak50h.html](http://www.molex.com/link/stak50h.html)