

Automotive Insiders: ESI[tronic]'s new Automatic Vehicle Identification function – accuracy for every vehicle, every time



In a world of ‘influencers’ – people who use social media to appear as if they’re knowledgeable on a certain subject – Bosch are the real deal. We’re genuine automotive influencers because our in-depth automotive knowledge has been built over 100 years, our innovations have shaped the automotive landscape, and our products and services are trusted by millions of customers around the world today.

In our Automotive Insider series, we find out more about Bosch’s best-known products and services, by talking to the people behind them. From chassis and spark plugs to training solutions and ESI[tronic], our experts lift the bonnet to share how these parts and solutions work – their history, how they’ve developed over the years, and how they’re equipping vehicle mechanics and owners to face the future with confidence.

Today we’re talking to Sebastian Lutz – the expert behind ESI[tronic]’s new Automatic Vehicle Identification (VIN) function, which reads the identification details of a vehicle accurately, ensuring workshops always have the correct vehicle data at their fingertips.

Firstly, tell us about the new automatic VIN function

Vehicle Identification used to be a manual process for independent workshops – and quite a laborious one! With a steady stream of different makes and models coming into their garages, technicians were spending a lot of time and energy manually sourcing the VIN. On older cars this might have meant deciphering the exact model, engine code and year from a worn service book or cross-referencing databases, both of which might leave a question mark over accuracy.

ESI[tronic]’s new Automatic Vehicle Identification (VIN) function makes the diagnostic process simpler for mechanics, right from the moment the vehicle enters the workshop. The function cuts out the need for manual identification, so technicians can start the vehicle diagnostics with absolute certainty and minimal fuss. They simply plug in, verify and diagnose!

How does the VIN function work with ESI[tronic]?

The function is an intuitive addition to the ESI[tronic] setup in workshops. To ensure a smooth integration, the function is being rolled out in two stages.

Technicians are already benefitting from the first stage, which was released in January 2026, and integrates seamlessly into the existing is simple – once the user ensures the VCI is connected to the vehicle, ESI[tronic] will automatically retrieve the VIN details by serial diagnosis.

That’s it, no need to cross-reference databases or enter any details manually!

While the process cuts down on time (always important for busy workshops looking to be as efficient as possible), it is also accurate –reducing potential errors and boosting a technician’s confidence in their initial diagnosis.

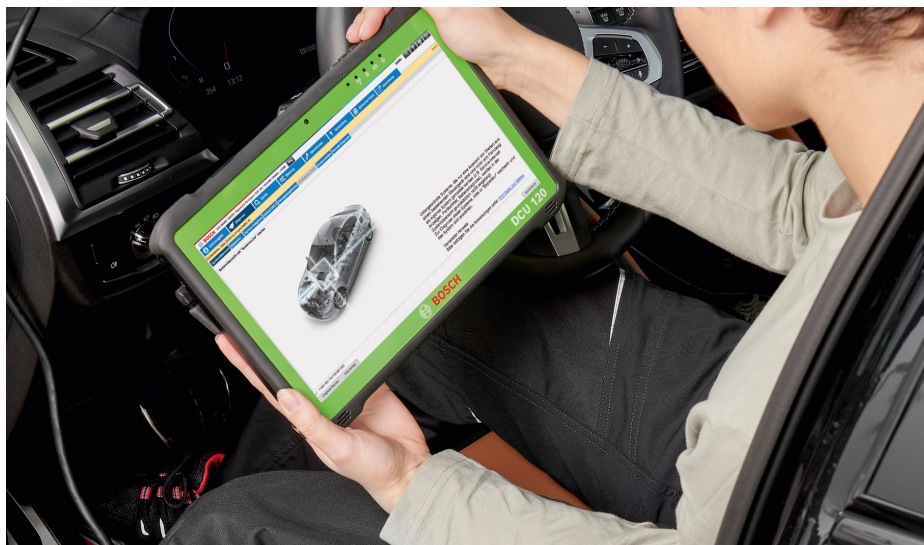
With the VIN function in their toolkit, they’re streamlining their workflow from the very first interaction, getting an accurate reading quickly from the moment they connect to the vehicle.

So what happens in the second stage of the VIN implementation?

While the first step offers a smarter way of diagnosing vehicles that come into the workshop, we have an additional stage in place to make the diagnostic process easier and more intuitive. The second stage of the update (coming later in 2026) will make the process even simpler. Once the VCI is connected, the list will appear as before, but this time users can access and run the diagnostic function almost immediately. They can read out the memory available and create a maintenance schedule – all of which will further streamline the workshop's workflow.

So this really is rapid vehicle detection for workshops?

Yes, in an industry which requires speed and accuracy, the new VIN tool is essential. Workshops can feel confident they have the correct vehicle data at their fingertips, because the VIN function reduces the risk of selecting the wrong model and speeds up every subsequent diagnostic and repair step. Even better, it happens automatically! The whole identification and diagnostic process becomes smoother and more efficient for technicians and busy workshops.



Service Spotlight: VIN makes ESI[tronic] an even stronger part of a workshop's toolkit

"For mechanics looking to streamline their work process, ESI[tronic] is invaluable. All relevant information is held in a single, central application, so technicians don't need to switch between systems or search for data by hand. Thanks to a seamless workflow, the whole repair process is accelerated, from initial identification to completion".

Sebastian Lutz,
ESI[tronic] Product Manager

About our expert: Sebastian Lutz

Sebastian Lutz joined the Product Management team for ESI[tronic] in 2012. His current role covers 150 countries around the world, across all product requirements and legal.

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For more information on Bosch's intuitive Automatic Vehicle Identification function, please visit us at:
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