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For immediate release

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Yokohama Rubber Begins Overseas Sales of BluEarth-XT AE61, a Summer Tire for Crossover Urban SUVs

Tokyo – The Yokohama Rubber Co., Ltd., announced today a new addition to its BluEarth lineup of fuel-efficient and environmentally friendly tires. The BluEarth-XT AE61, which is designed for use on crossover urban SUVs as a summer tire, is being launched gradually in markets around the world from this February, with the exact timing depending on the region. The BluEarth-XT AE61 will be made available in 27 sizes, ranging from 235/55R20 102V to 215/70R16 100H, with the available sizes depending on the region.

The BluEarth-XT AE61 is a summer tire developed specifically for use on crossover urban SUVs. The tire delivers the sharp handling performance drivers need on city streets and highways as well as a quiet ride that contributes to the comfort inside the SUV's cabin. In addition, the tire's resistance to uneven wear gives it a long useful lifespan. The tire also achieves the uncompromised combination of superior levels of wet-grip performance and rolling resistance, which provides drivers with a greater sense of safety when driving in the rain while contributing to the vehicle's low fuel consumption.

The BluEarth-XT AE61 also features an asymmetrical tread pattern developed by Yokohama Rubber specifically to provide the performance demanded by drivers of crossover urban SUVs. The tread pattern design provides a high rigidity from the shoulder to the center rib that contributes to handling performance and resistance to uneven wear. In addition, four straight grooves combined with inside narrow grooves contribute to the tire's outstanding wet-grip performance. Also, the use of non-penetrating grooves that suppress air-pumping noise and a five-pitch tread pattern variation have resulted in a tread pattern design that suppresses noise and realizes a superior level of quietness. The tire's compound is a nano-blend rubber that combines silica and polymer to enhance wet-grip performance and fuel efficiency. The BluEarth-XT AE61's profile features a smooth road contact surface shape and a mound profile that evenly distributes contact pressure to deliver outstanding straight-line stability and resistance to uneven wear.



BluEarth is a YOKOHAMA global tire brand based on the concept of being “environmentally, human, and socially friendly. In addition to the new BluEarth-XT AE61 for crossover urban SUVs, the BluEarth brand includes fuel-efficient BluEarth-GT AE51 for mid-range sedans; the fuel-efficient BluEarth RV-02 for multipurpose vehicles (MPVs); and the BluEarth-Es ES32, a fuel-efficient standard tire.

Available Sizes

Inches	Aspect ratio	Tire sizes	Inches	Aspect ratio	Tire sizes
20	55	235/55R20 102V	17	50	215/50R17 91V
19	50	245/50R19 105W XL		55	215/55R17 94V
	55	225/55R19 99V			225/55R17 97W
		235/55R19 101V		60	235/55R17 99H
18	50	215/50R18 92V			215/60R17 96H
		225/50R18 95V			225/60R17 99V
		235/50R18 97V		235/60R17 102V	
	55	215/55R18 99V XL		65	215/65R17 99V
		225/55R18 98V			225/65R17 102H
		235/55R18 100V			235/65R17 108V XL
60	225/60R18 100H	16	60	205/60R16 92V	
	235/60R18 103W		215/60R16 95V		
65	235/65R18 106V		65	215/65R16 98H	
			70	215/70R16 100H	

XL: Extra Load

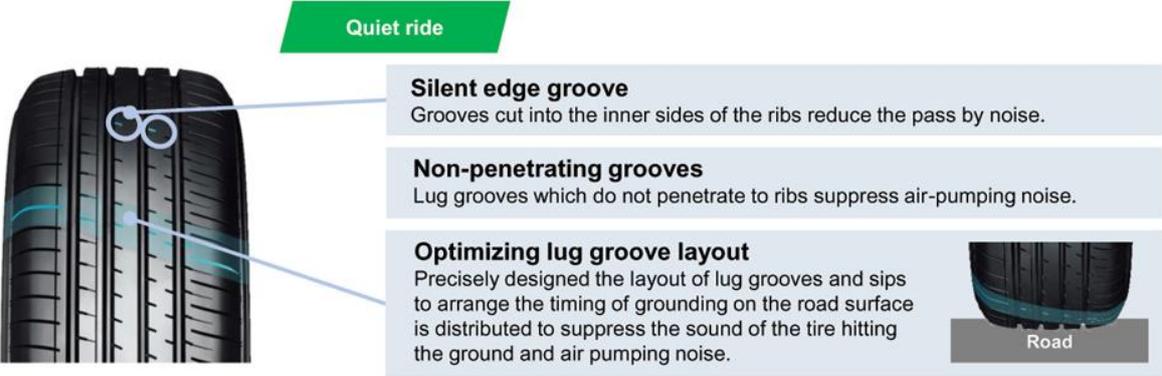
Tread Pattern Balances Handling, and Wet Grip and Uneven Wear Resistance



Delivering steady handling for urban SUV active driving.

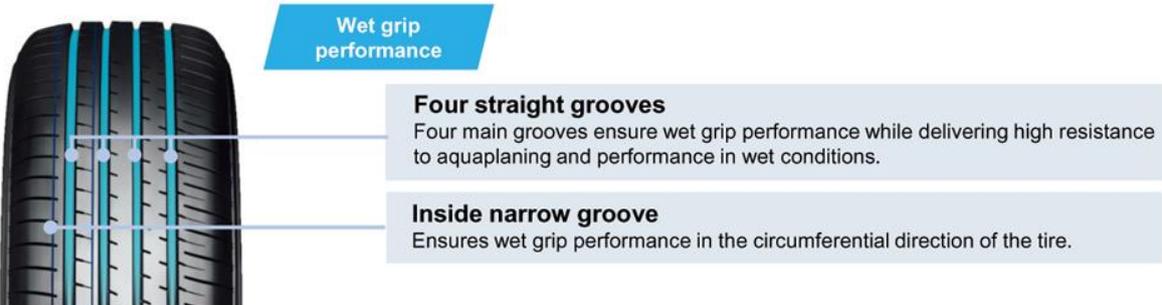


Enhanced quiet ride performance for spacious SUVs.



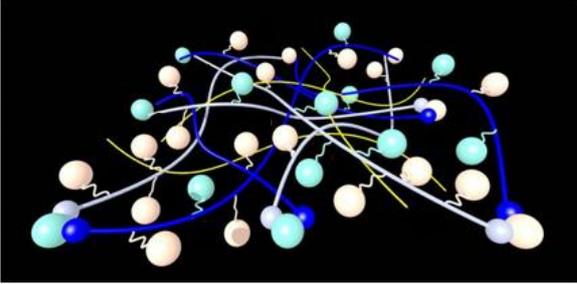
Five pitch tread pattern variation
Acoustic pressure simulations lead to the optimal layout for five types of pitches and variations of different lengths relative to the circumferential direction of the tire. In line with on-road SUVs that run on city streets, pattern noise that is conspicuous on paved roads is suppressed.

Excellent water-drainage performance for your safety in rainy road.



Compound Balances the Highest Grade of Wet Grip Performance with Fuel Efficiency

Nano-blend rubber
Includes double silica and blend polymer

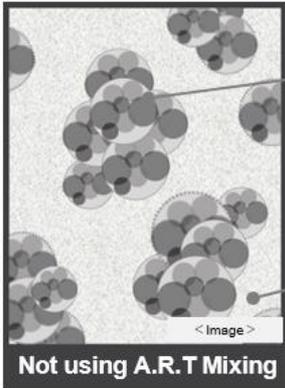


Wet grip performance

Fuel efficiency

- Silica that affects wet grip performance
- Silica that affects fuel economy
- Polymer that affects wet grip performance
- Polymer that affects fuel economy

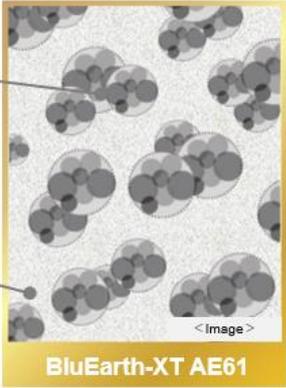
Unique “A.R.T.” Rubber Blending Technology *Advanced Reaction Technology in Mixing
Improved dispersion and uniformity of silica within the compound



Silica

➔

Rubber (Polymer)



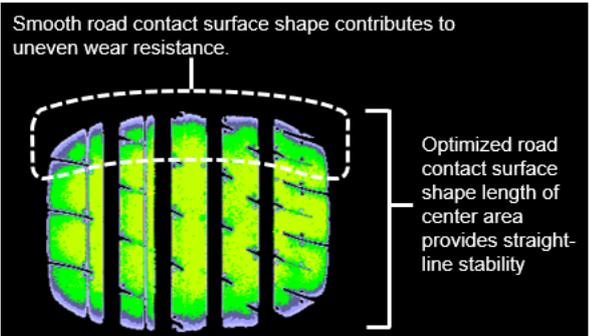
Not using A.R.T. Mixing **BluEarth-XT AE61**

Profile Features a Smooth Road Contact Surface Shape and a Mound Profile

Optimized road contact surface shape
Smooth road contact surface shape and uniform contact pressure achieve uneven wear resistance and outstanding straight-line stability.

Straight-line stability

Uneven wear resistance

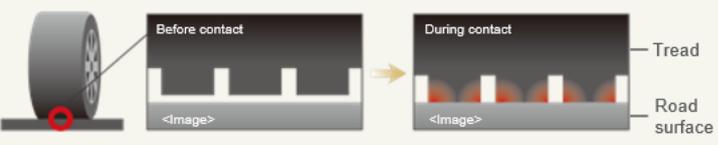


Smooth road contact surface shape contributes to uneven wear resistance.

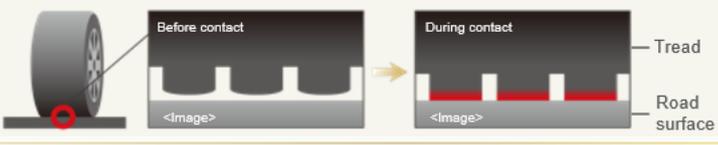
Optimized road contact surface shape length of center area provides straight-line stability

Mound profile
Employs a mound profile that is not easily susceptible to uneven wear. Reducing the uneven wear that plagues the tires of SUVs with high centers of gravity extends the life of the tires.

[Without Mound profile]
Pressure is applied disproportionately to both sides of the ribs, which leads to uneven wear.



[BluEarth-XT AE61]
Evenly distributed contact pressure helps prevent uneven wear.



Uneven wear resistance