



July, 2023

## **“NEW PREMIUM” CHINA SURVEY**

Excerpt of results



# THE CHINESE AUTO MARKET HAS BECOME TREMENDOUSLY COMPLEX



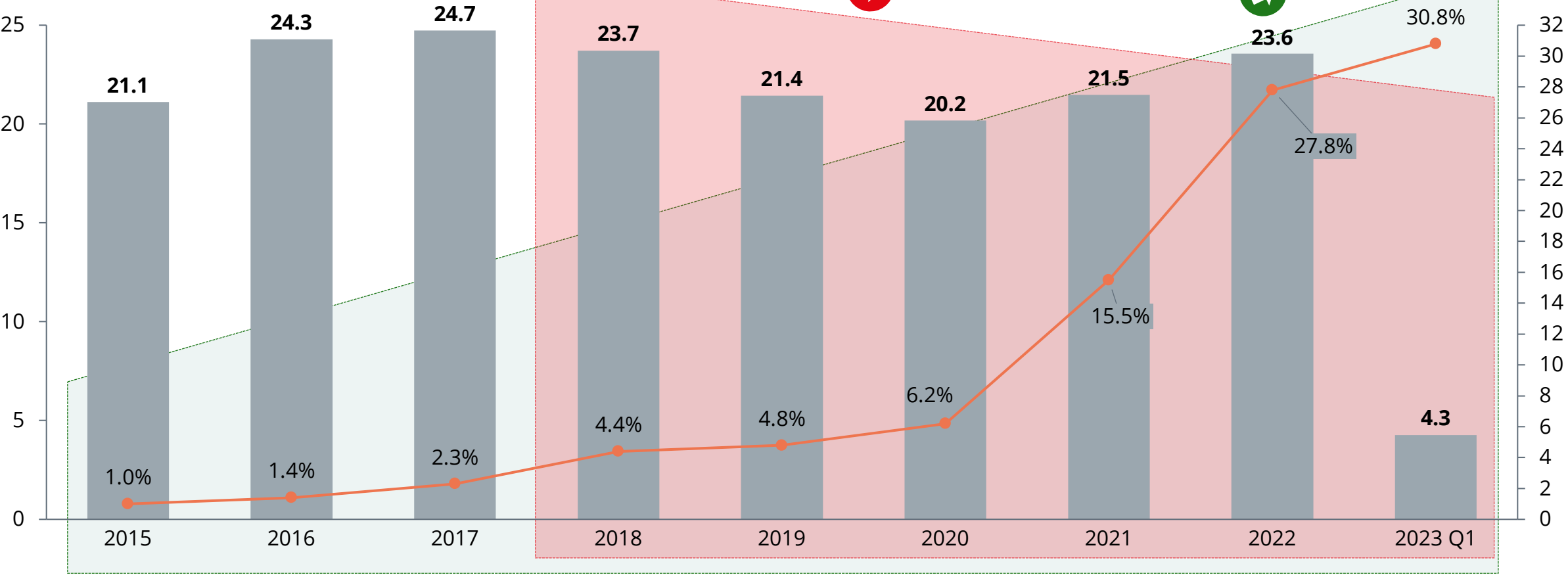


# THE BIG PICTURE: NEVS HAVE BEEN ON THE RISE FOR QUITE SOME TIME



While sales of passenger cars in China has been going up and down, the rise of NEVs<sup>1</sup> is continuing.

NEW VEHICLE SALES  
[mn units]



<sup>1</sup> New Energy Vehicles: BEV, PHEV and FCEV  
Source: Berylls, CAAM

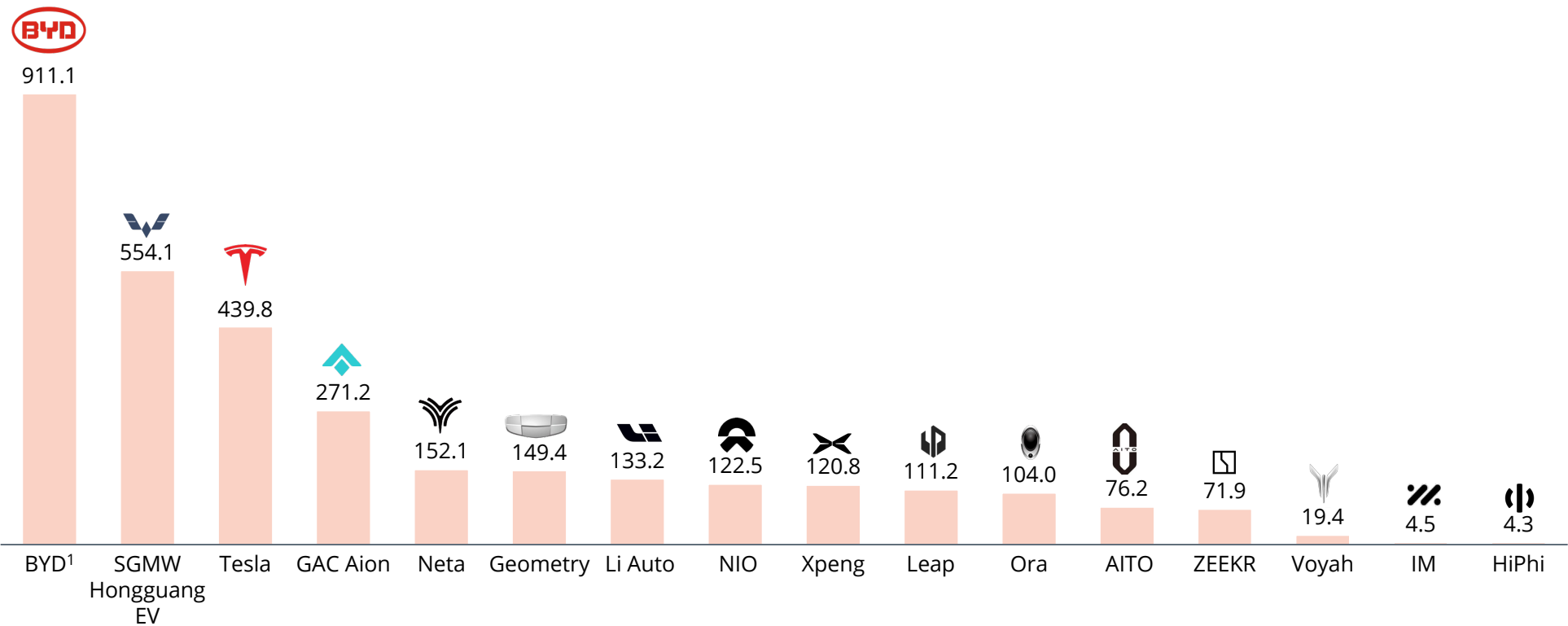
● Share of NEV (%)    ■ Sales of passenger vehicles (mn units)



# NEV: THE CHINESE NEV MARKET IS DOMINATED BY MOSTLY LOCAL PLAYERS

Tesla is a notable exception.

Best-selling NEV brands in 2022 (selected) ['000 units]



<sup>1</sup> BEV models only  
Source: Berylls, press

» The Chinese NEV market is dominated by local players accounting for ~80% of the market – with rising tendency, e.g., achieving ~90% in Q1 '23

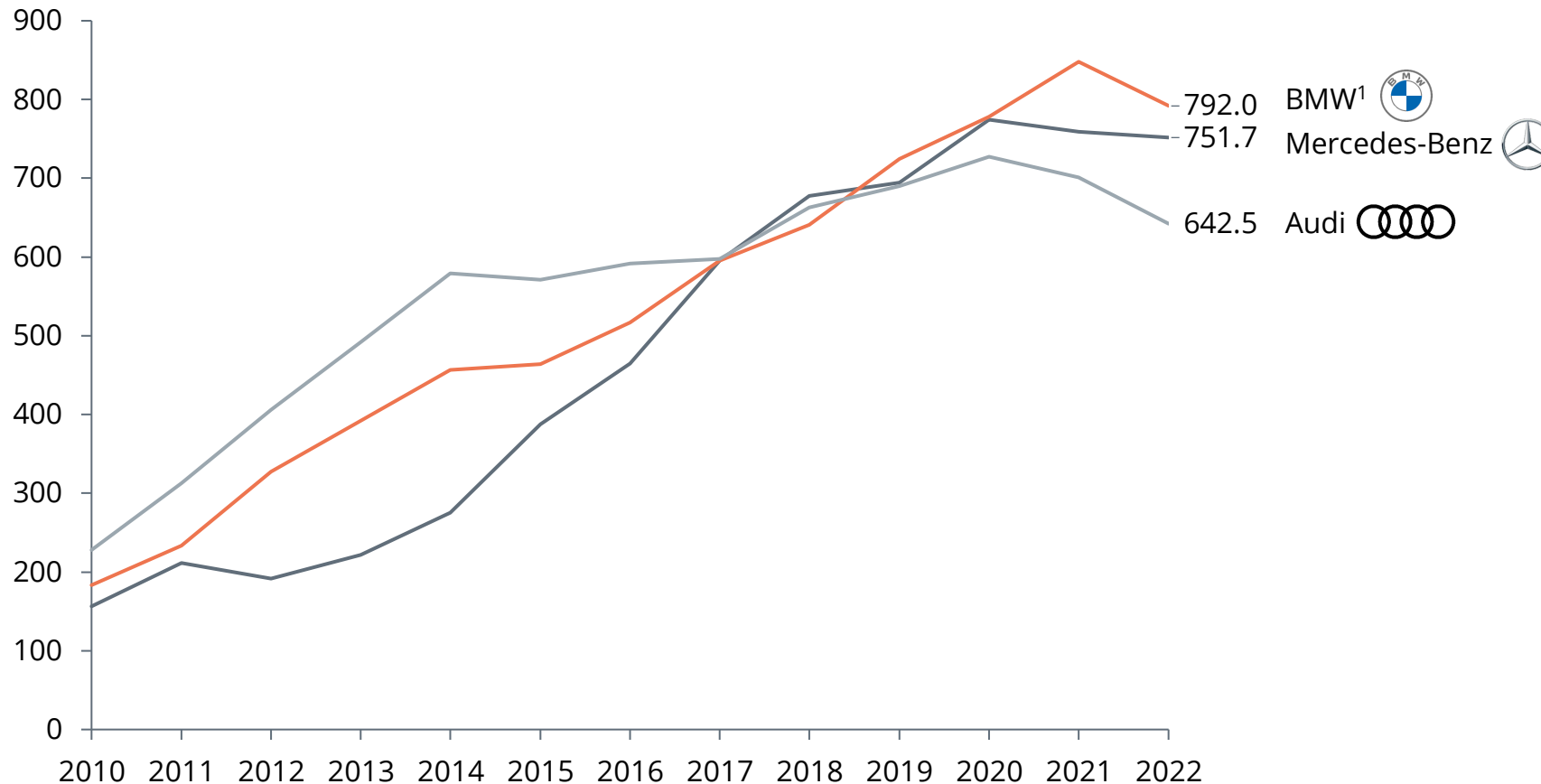
» New EV players and sub-brands of traditional OEMs have been successful in 2022 – with an increasing number of players going upscale/premium



# TRADITIONAL PREMIUM OEMS' PERFORMANCE IN CHINA HAVE STARTED TO DETERIORATE



## GERMAN PREMIUM CHINA SALES 2010 – 2022 ['000 units]



<sup>1</sup> Incl. MINI  
Source: Berylls, press, company information

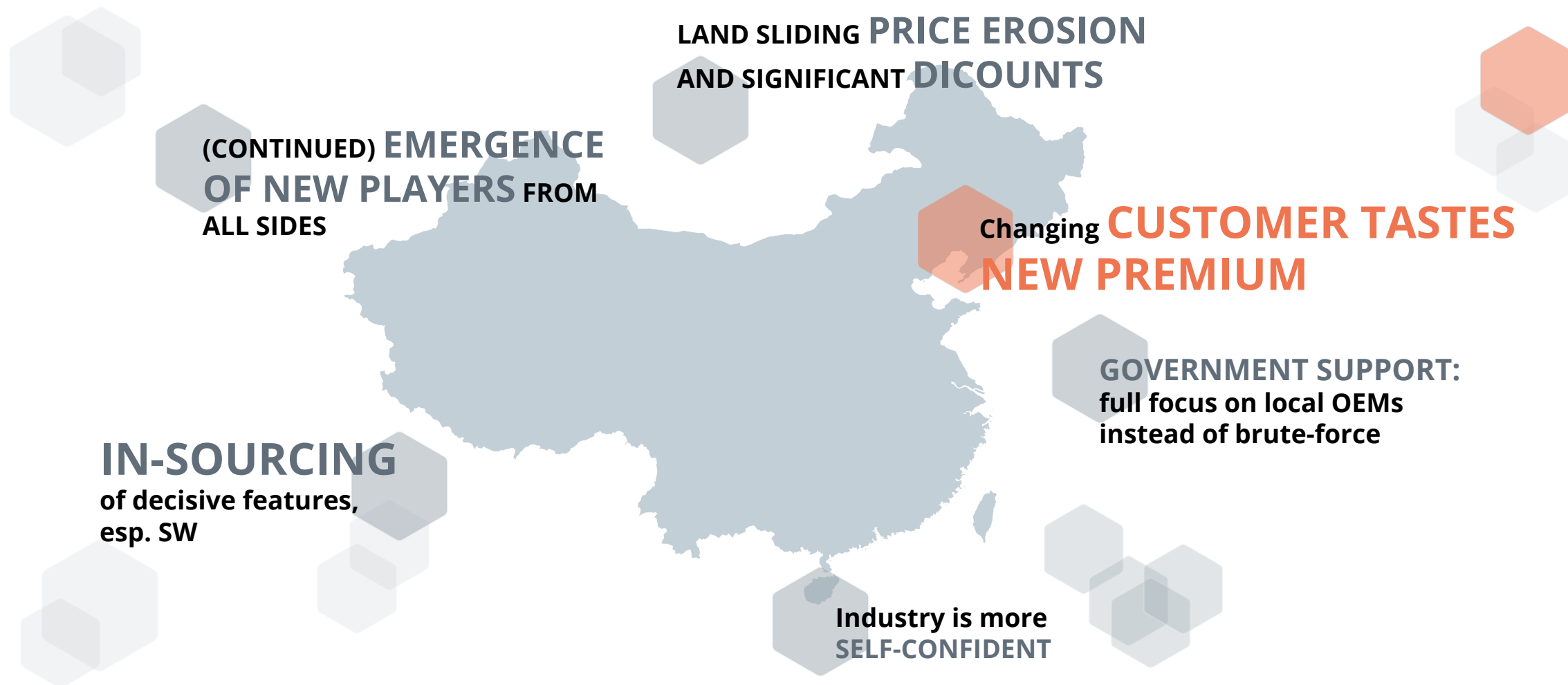
## GERMAN PREMIUM IN CHINA

- » While still being the **dominant force**, all three German premium players have **lost volume** in 2021 and 2022, in particular Audi
- » This trend continued into 2023 with Mercedes-Benz being the exception
- » In NEV, all players still have **significant headroom**



# WHAT ARE KEY CHANGES?

In particular, customers tastes have changed – there seems to be new understanding of what constitutes premium



Source: Berylls







**What is “New Premium”?**

# WE HAVE CONDUCTED A SURVEY AMONG CHINESE CONSUMERS TO ANSWER THIS QUESTION

## Survey key facts

### Survey setup

- » Survey from **March/April 2023**
- » **1,041 participants**
- » Focus on **premium brands** only
- » Geographical distribution (provinces with most respondents):
  - » North (Beijing & adjacent provinces)
  - » Eastern coast (Shanghai, Zhejiang & Jiangsu)
  - » South (Guangdong)
  - » West (Sichuan)

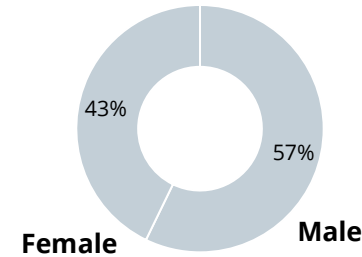


1 With purchasing intention  
Source: Berylls

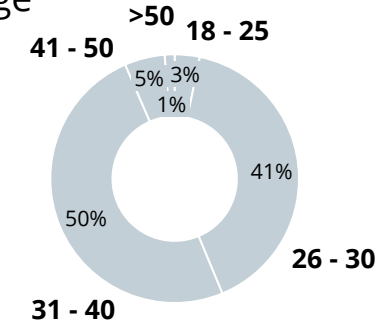
2 PHEV includes EREX, such as Li Auto portfolio

### Survey participants

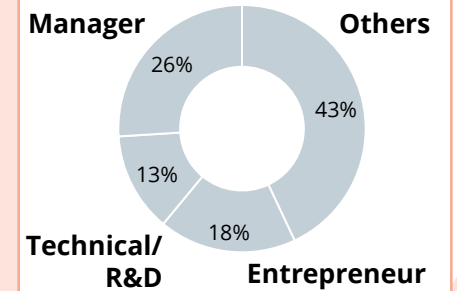
#### Gender



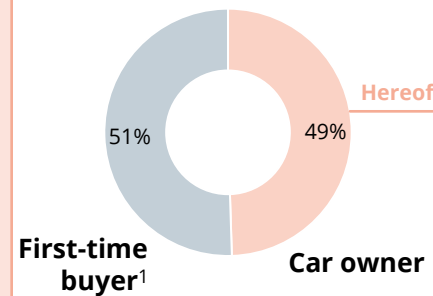
#### Age



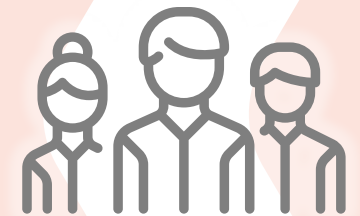
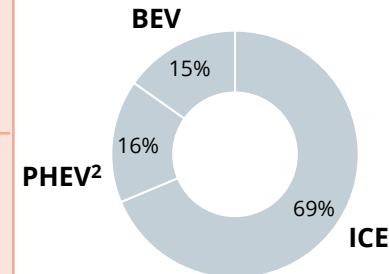
#### Occupation



#### Car ownership



#### Propulsion type





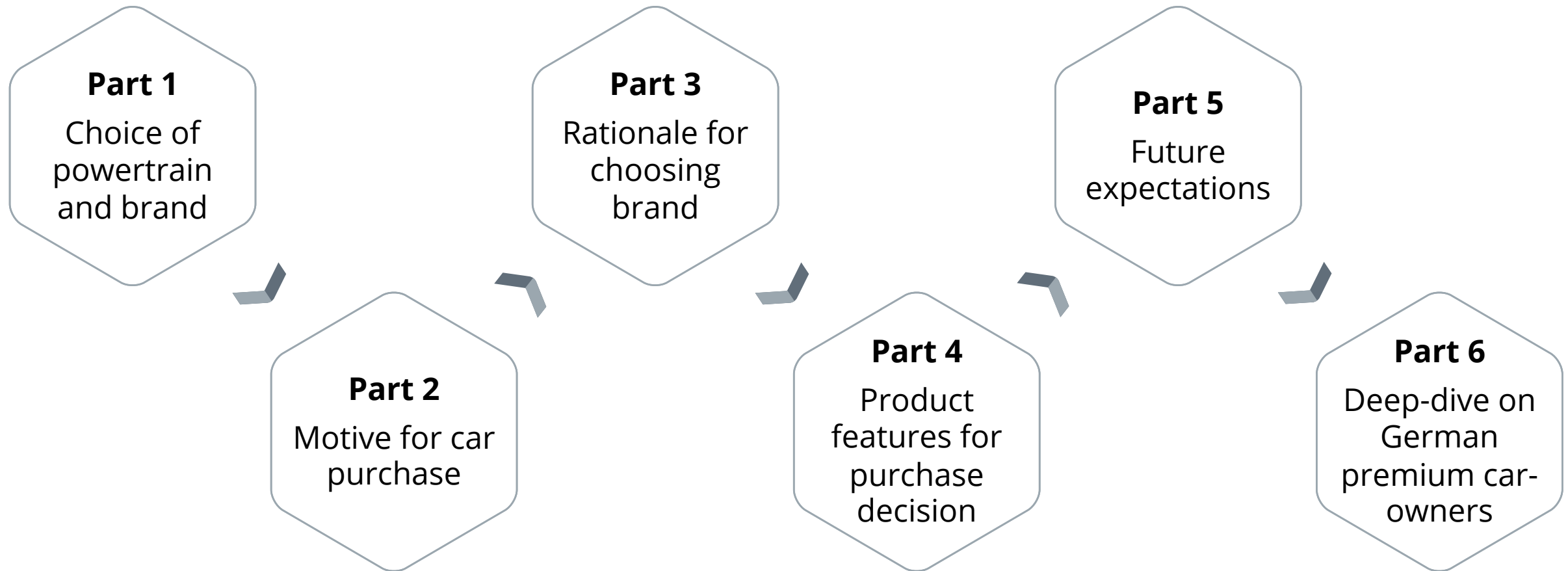
# SUMMARY

- » Car owners and first-time buyers are different – Chinese new players are **generally more desired** among **first-time buyers**: in BEV Chinese brands **outweigh** German premiums, clearly among **female** customers and customers groups **18 – 25 and >30**
- » German premium still dominate in **PHEV**<sup>1</sup>
- » The motive for buying German premium is primarily **branding** while for Chinese premium it's mostly **product**; for the age group 26 – 30, Chinese premium **reflects status** just like German premium
- » More detailed, **brand legacy** and **reflection of personal status** are the key purchase reason for German premium while that of Chinese premium are **product, service, marketing and being en-vogue**
- » Both customers of Chinese and German premium are looking for quite similar product features while Chinese premium customers are more into **smart cockpit and AD/ADAS**
- » Looking forward, a significant portion of customers want **tech instead traditional values**
- » **The tipping point is reached!**

<sup>1</sup> PHEV incl. EREX, e.g., Li Auto portfolio  
Source: Berylls



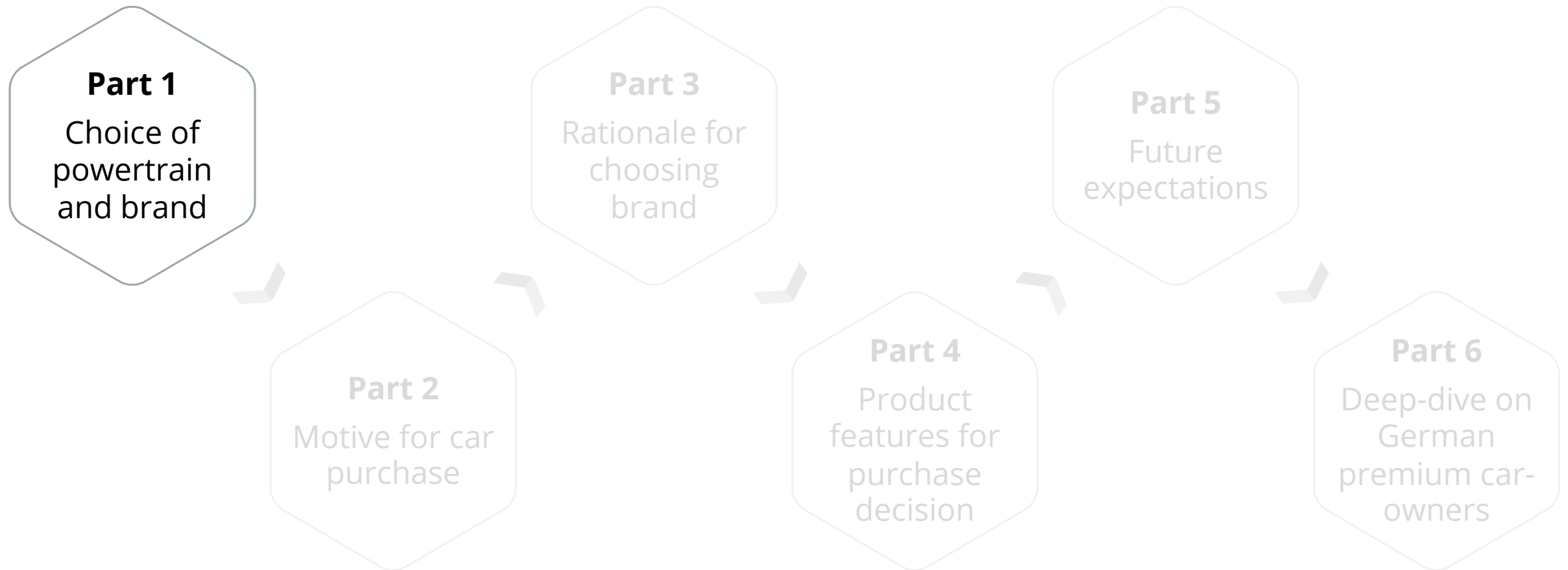
# 6 PARTS TO FULLY UNDERSTAND NEW PREMIUM



Source: Berylls



# CHOICE OF POWERTRAIN AND BRAND

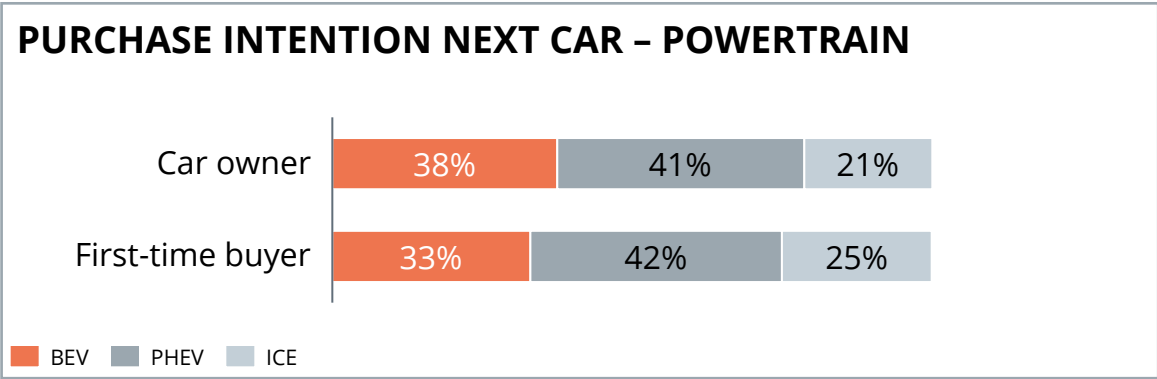


Source: Berylls

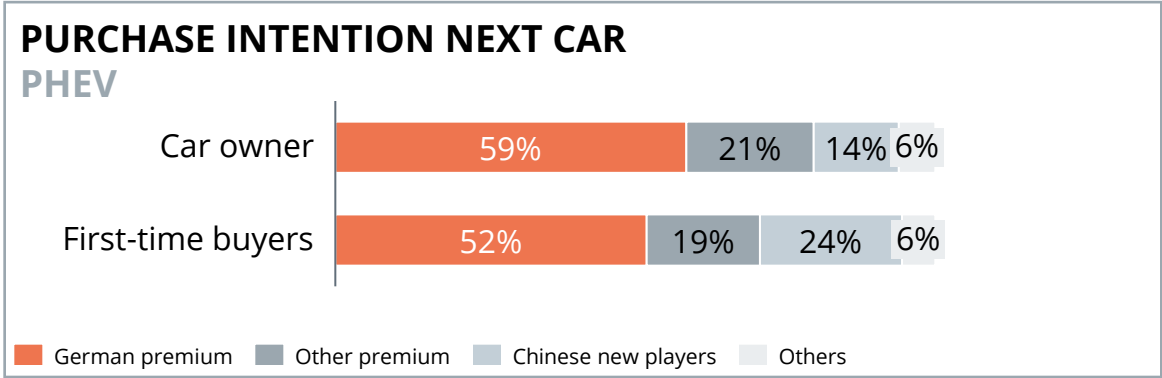
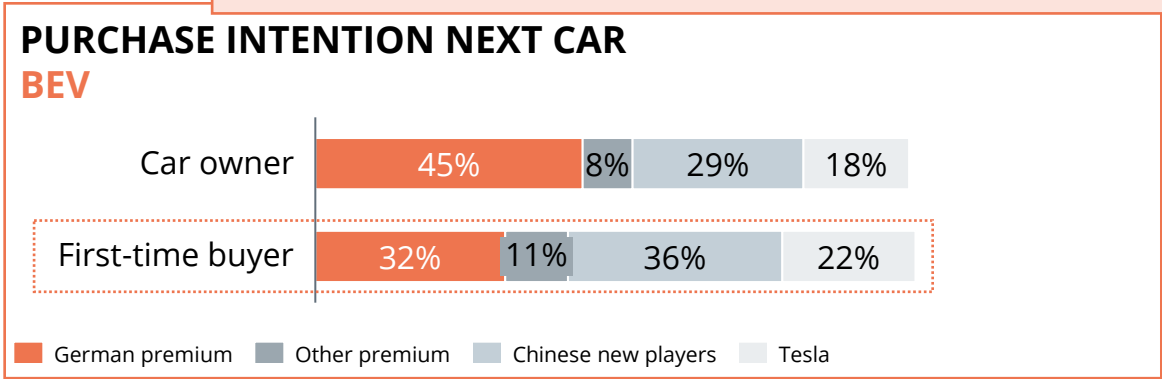




# KEY TAKEAWAYS (1/15) - PURCHASE INTENTION: POWERTRAIN AND BRAND TYPE



Except for chapter 6, we focus entirely on car owners and first-time buyers with **BEV purchase intention**

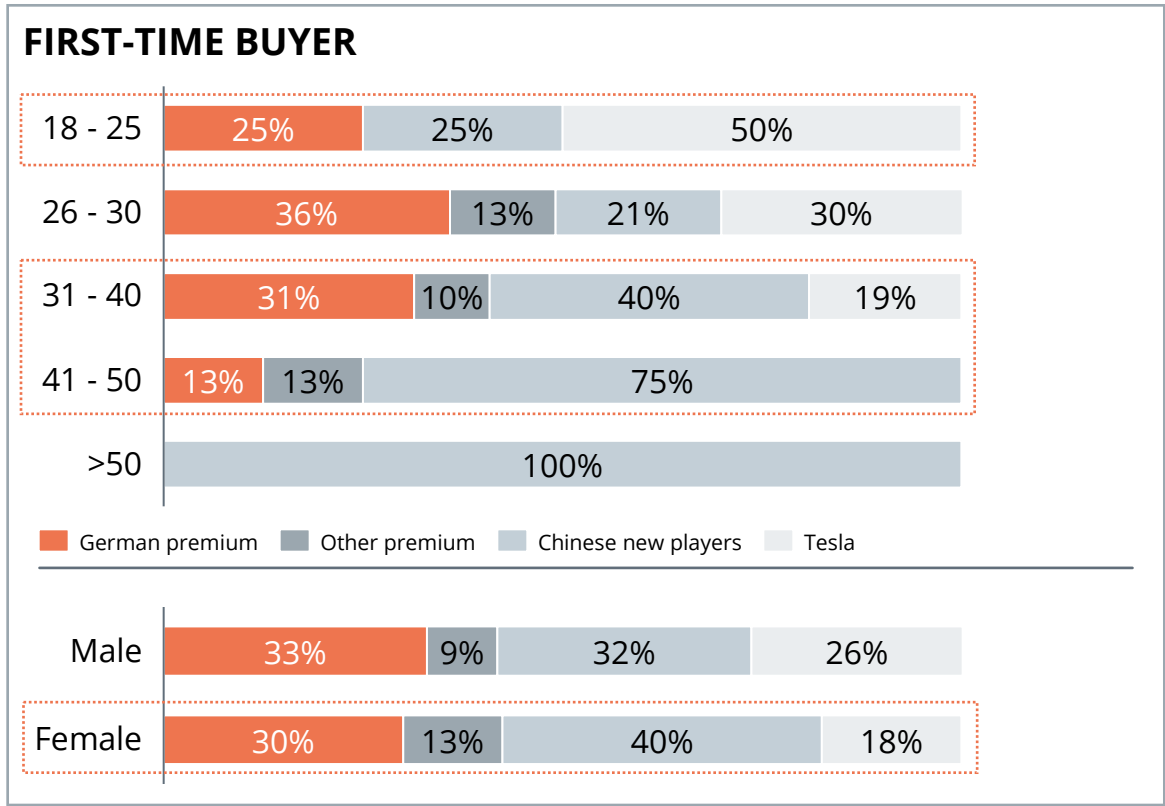
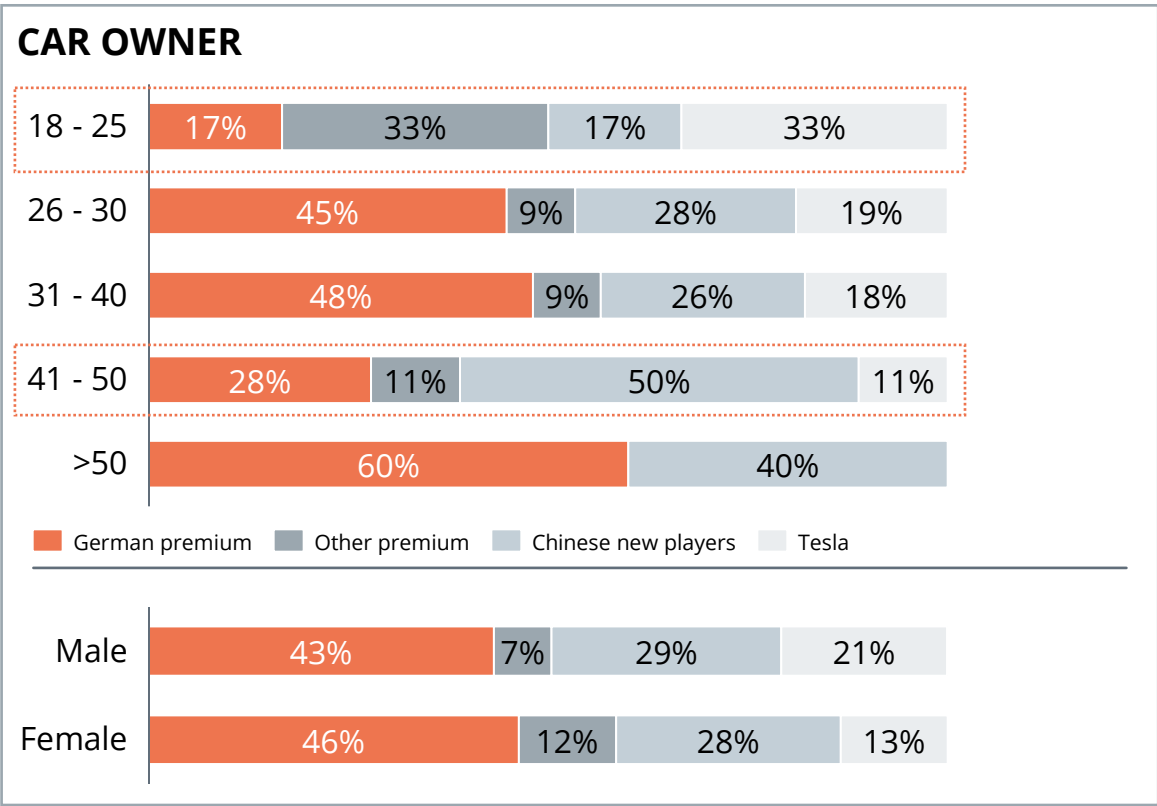


GERMAN PREMIUM BRANDS HAVE LOST THEIR **DOMINANT POSITION** WHEN IT COMES TO BEV, IN PARTICULAR AMONG **FIRST-TIME BUYERS**

Source: Berylls



# KEY TAKEAWAYS (2/15) - BEV BRAND SELECTION BASED ON AGE AND GENDER

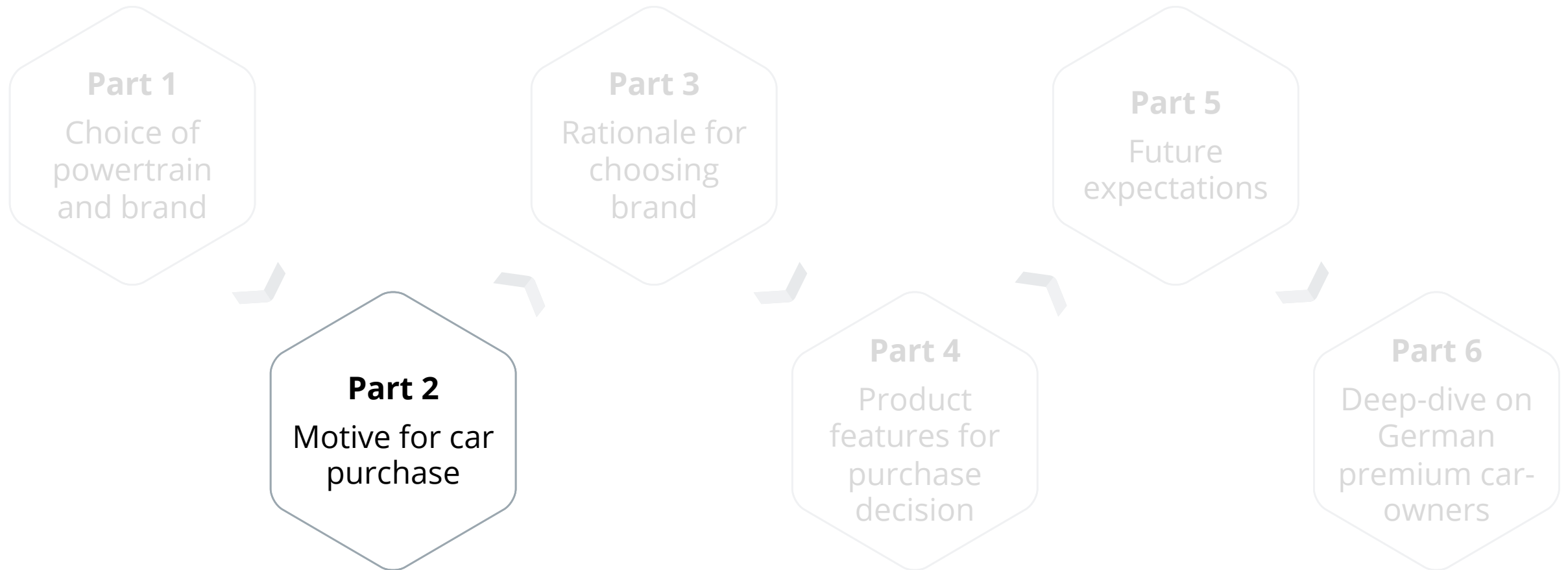


THIS IS MOST EVIDENT ACROSS THE AGE GROUPS OF **18 - 25 AND 41 - 50** (CAR OWNERS) AND **18 - 25 AND 31 - 50** (FIRST-TIME BUYERS) AS WELL AS **FEMALE FIRST-TIME BUYERS**

Source: Berylls



# MOTIVE FOR CAR PURCHASE



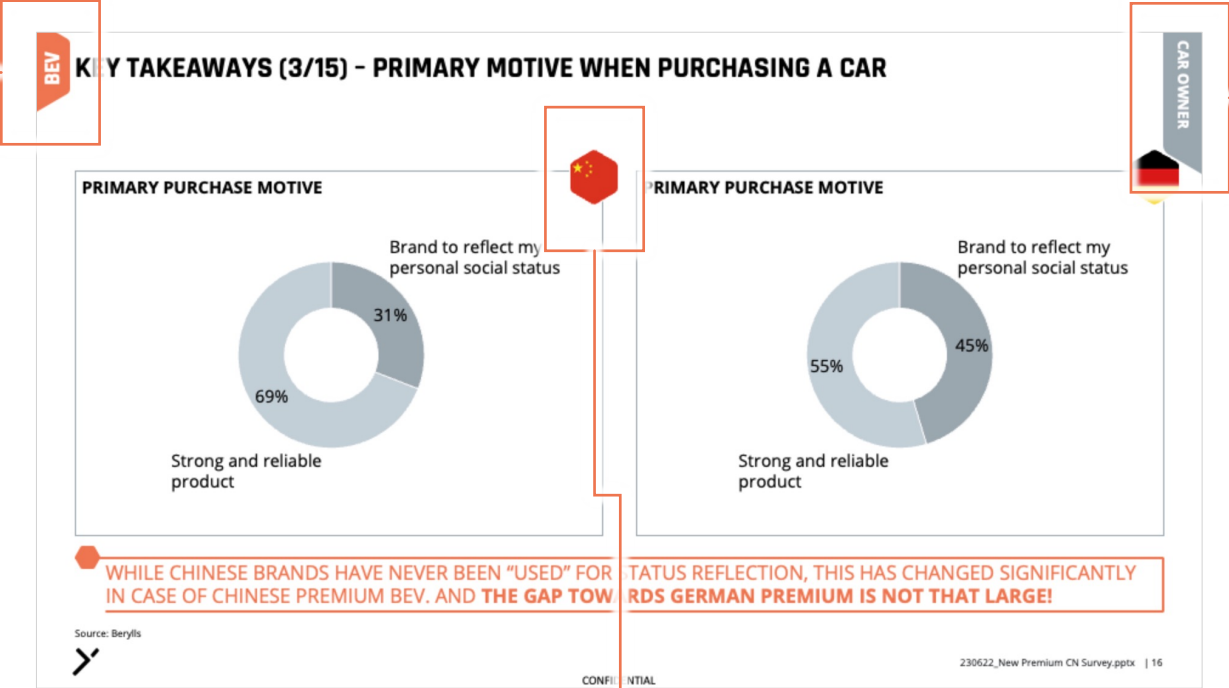
Source: Berylls





# CONVENTION USED WITHIN THE FOLLOWING SECTION

In this excerpt, we completely focus on BEV (with the exception of part 6) and always split between car-owner vs. first-time buyer as well as Chinese new player vs. German premium; focus is put on purchasing next car



**BEV focus**

Except for part 6, we focus on purchase intention BEV only. This is denoted via the **orange sticker** on the upper-left corner. PHEV data can be provided upon request

**Chinese new player vs German premium**

We show preferences differentiated with respect to surveyees choosing Chinese new player<sup>1</sup> or German premium. This is denoted via the respective **country flags**

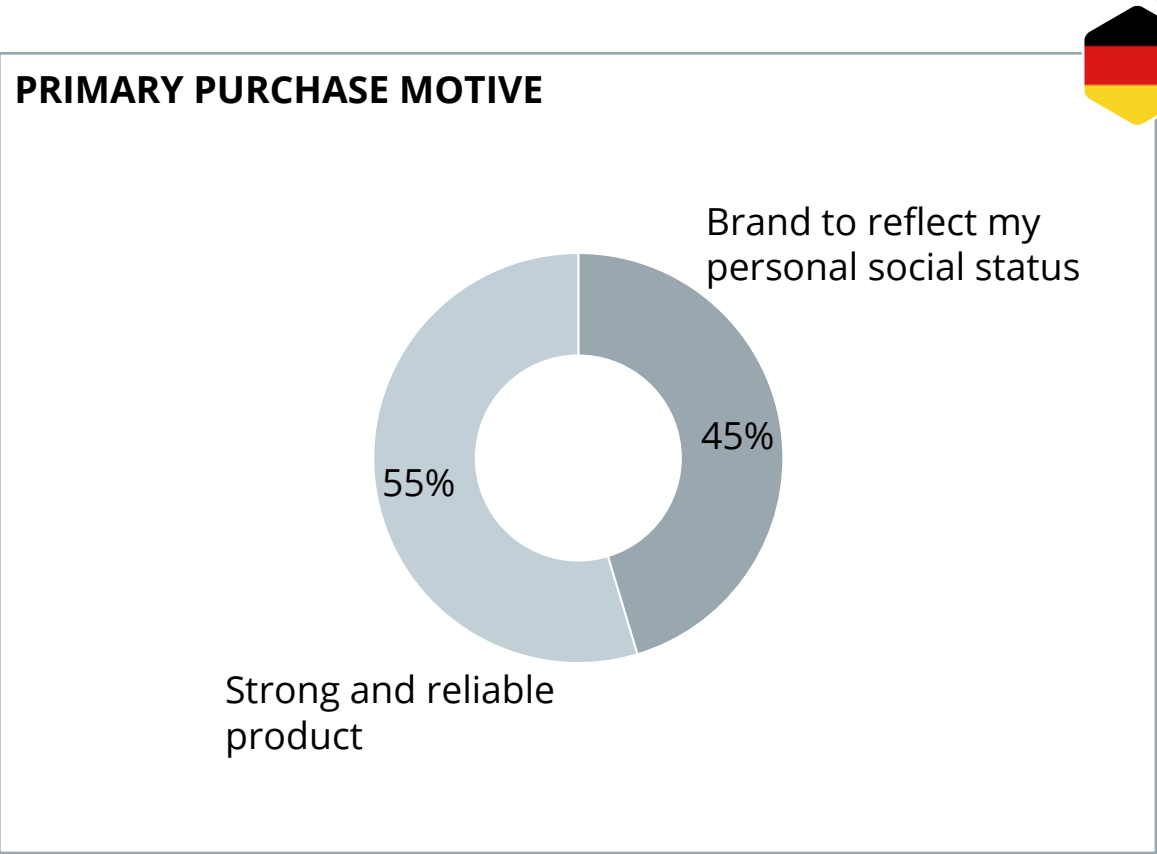
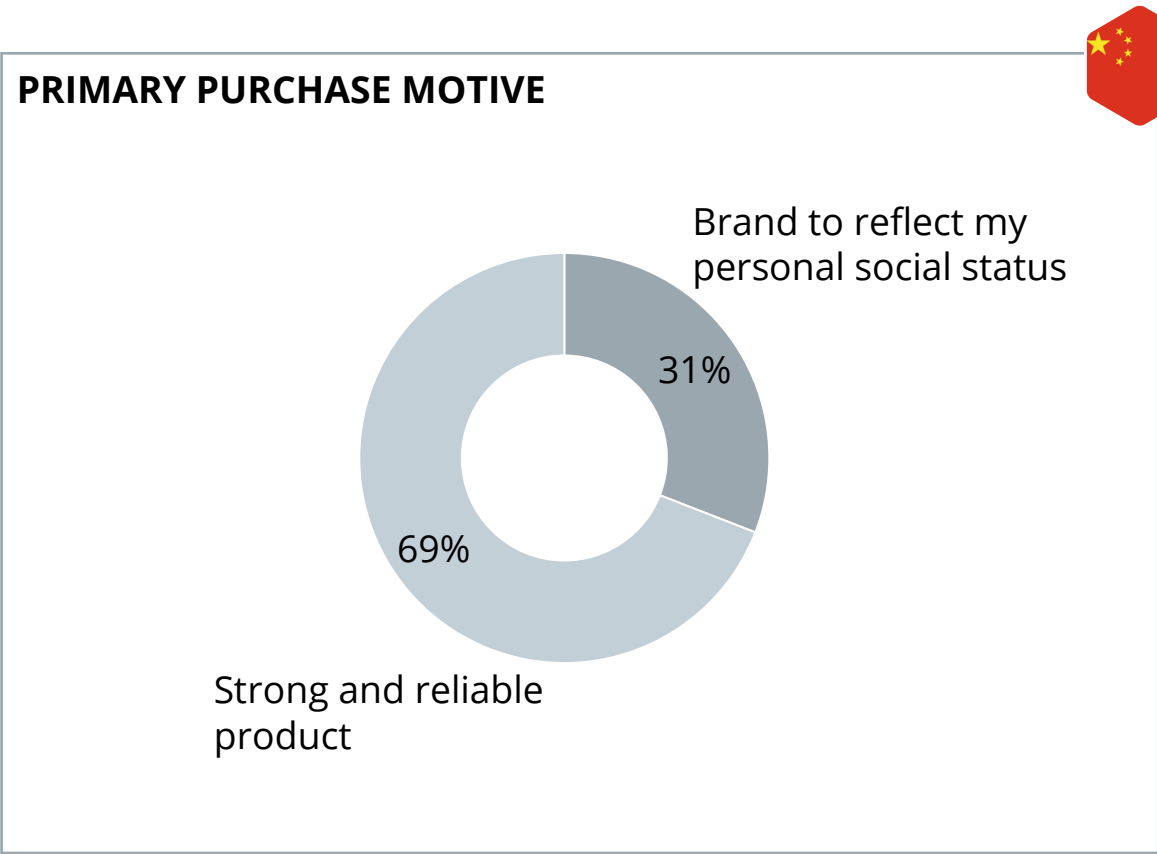
**Car-owner vs. first-time buyer**

We always distinguish between car-owner and first-time buyer. This is denoted via the **grey or light-grey sticker** on upper-right of each page

<sup>1</sup> In the following sections, we use Chinese new players or Chinese premium BEV interchangeably. We always mean the same type of players, e.g., NIO, Li Auto, HiPhi  
Source: Berylls



# KEY TAKEAWAYS (3/15) - PRIMARY MOTIVE WHEN PURCHASING A CAR

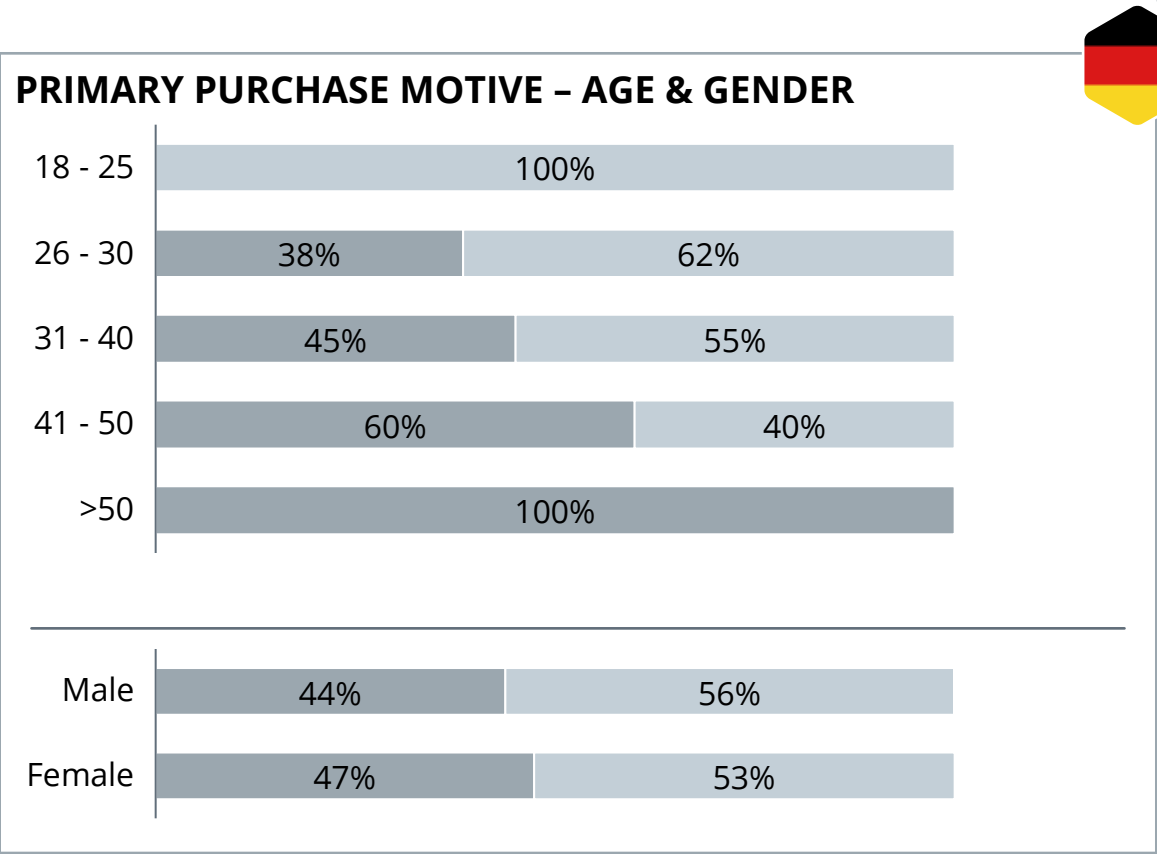
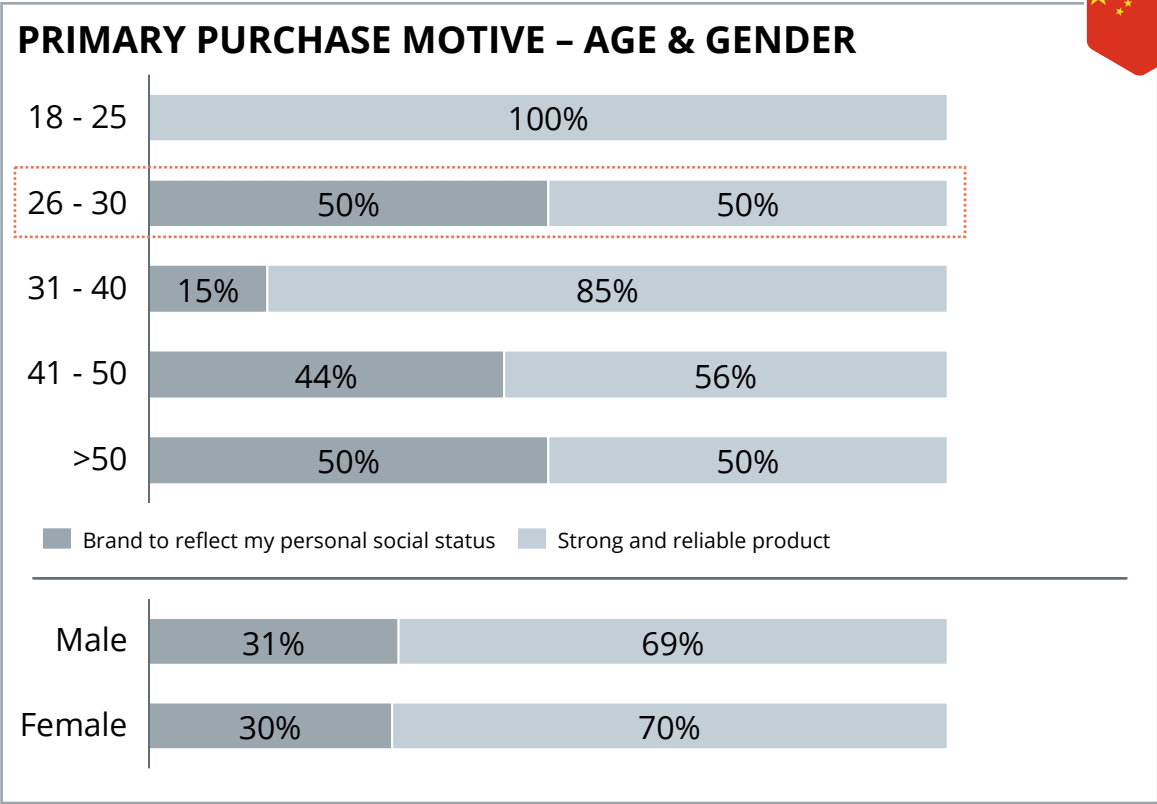


WHILE CHINESE BRANDS HAVE NEVER BEEN “USED” FOR STATUS REFLECTION, THIS HAS CHANGED SIGNIFICANTLY IN CASE OF CHINESE PREMIUM BEV. AND **THE GAP TOWARDS GERMAN PREMIUM IS NOT THAT LARGE!**

Source: Berylls



KEY TAKEAWAYS (4/15) - PRIMARY MOTIVE WHEN PURCHASING A CAR BY AGE & GENDER



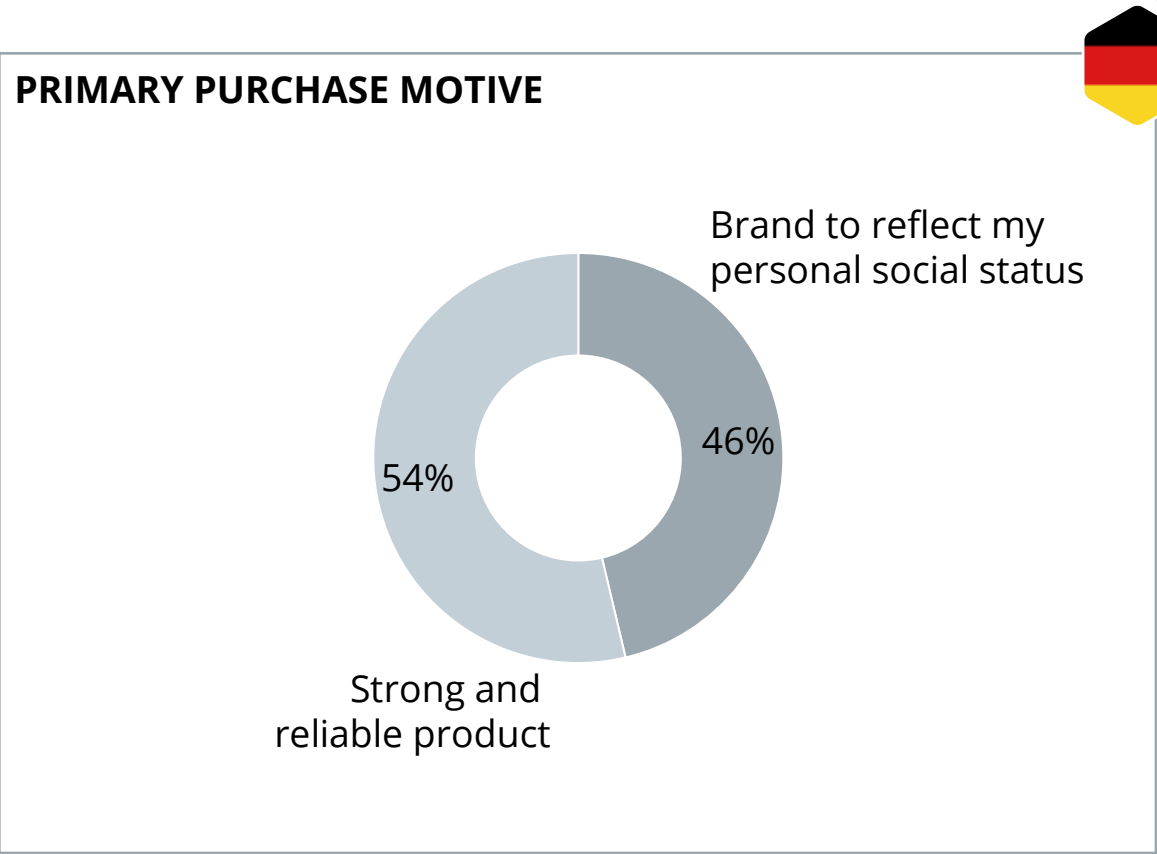
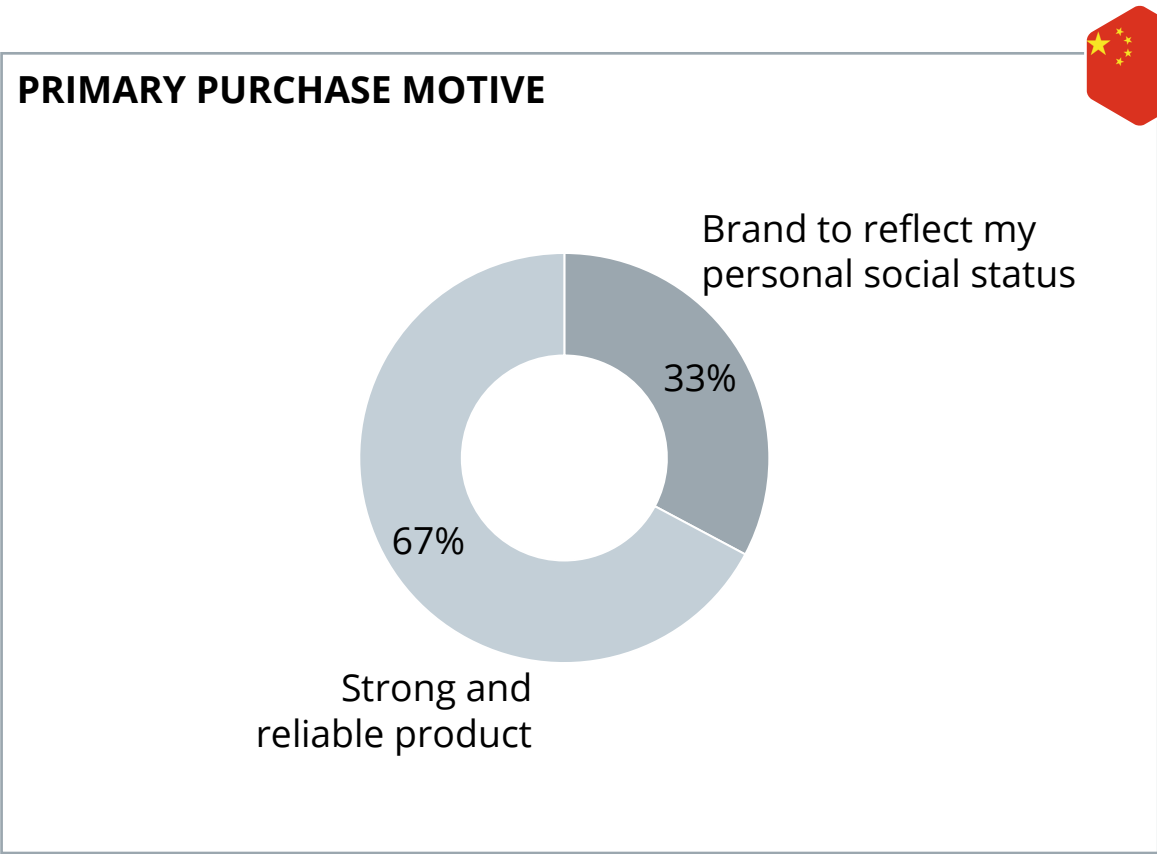
FOR THE AGE GROUP OF 26 – 30 (CAR OWNERS), CHINESE PREMIUM BEV SEEMS TO REFLECT MORE SOCIAL STATUS THAN THEIR GERMAN COUNTERPARTS – **THE TIPPING POINT IS REACHED!**

Source: Berylls





# KEY TAKEAWAYS (5/15) - PRIMARY MOTIVE WHEN PURCHASING A CAR



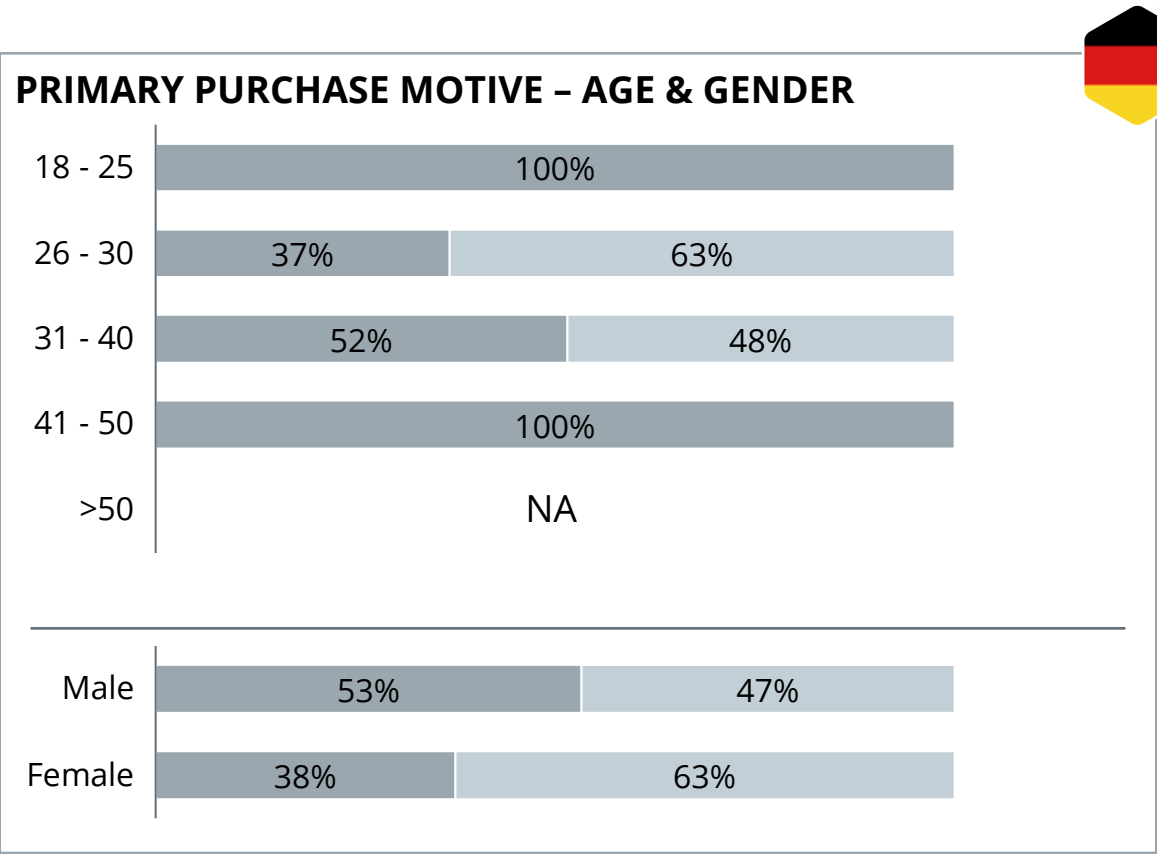
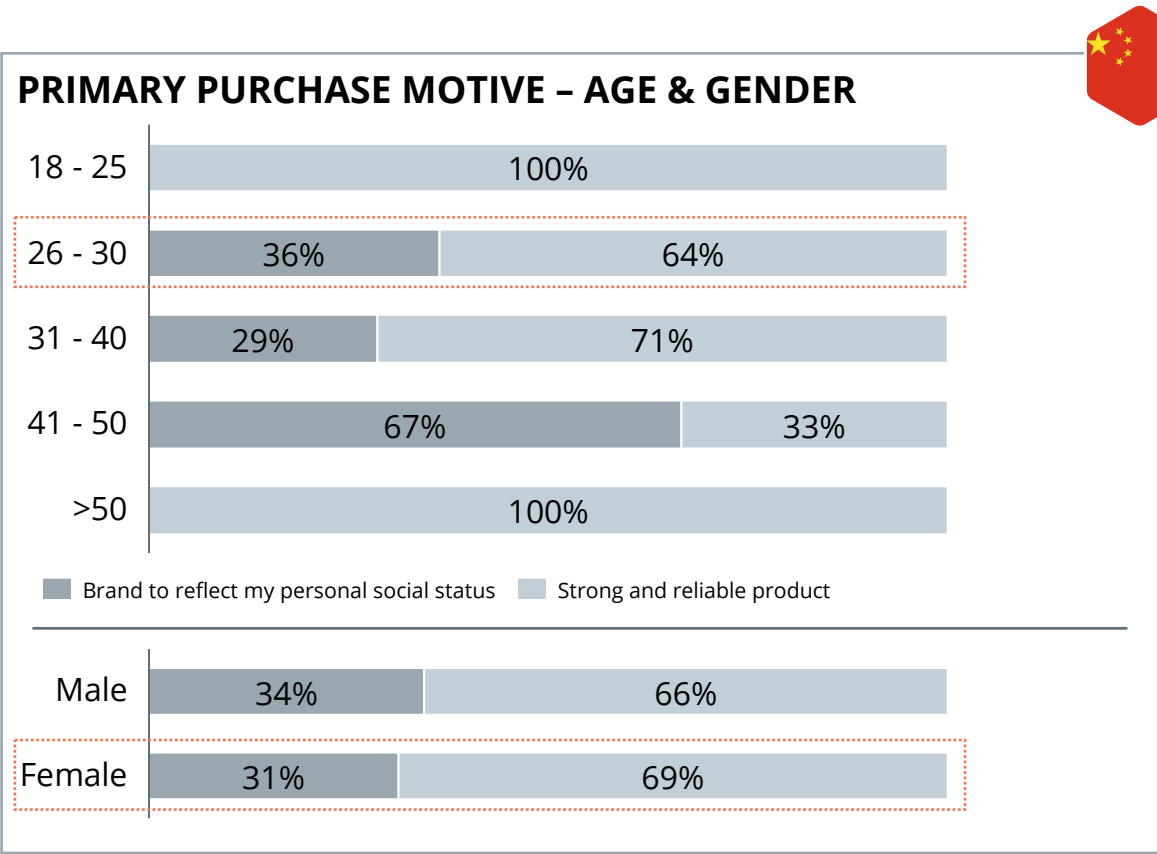
FOR FIRST-TIME BUYERS, THE PRIMARY MOTIVE IS **ALMOST IDENTICAL** TO THAT OF CAR OWNERS

Source: Berylls



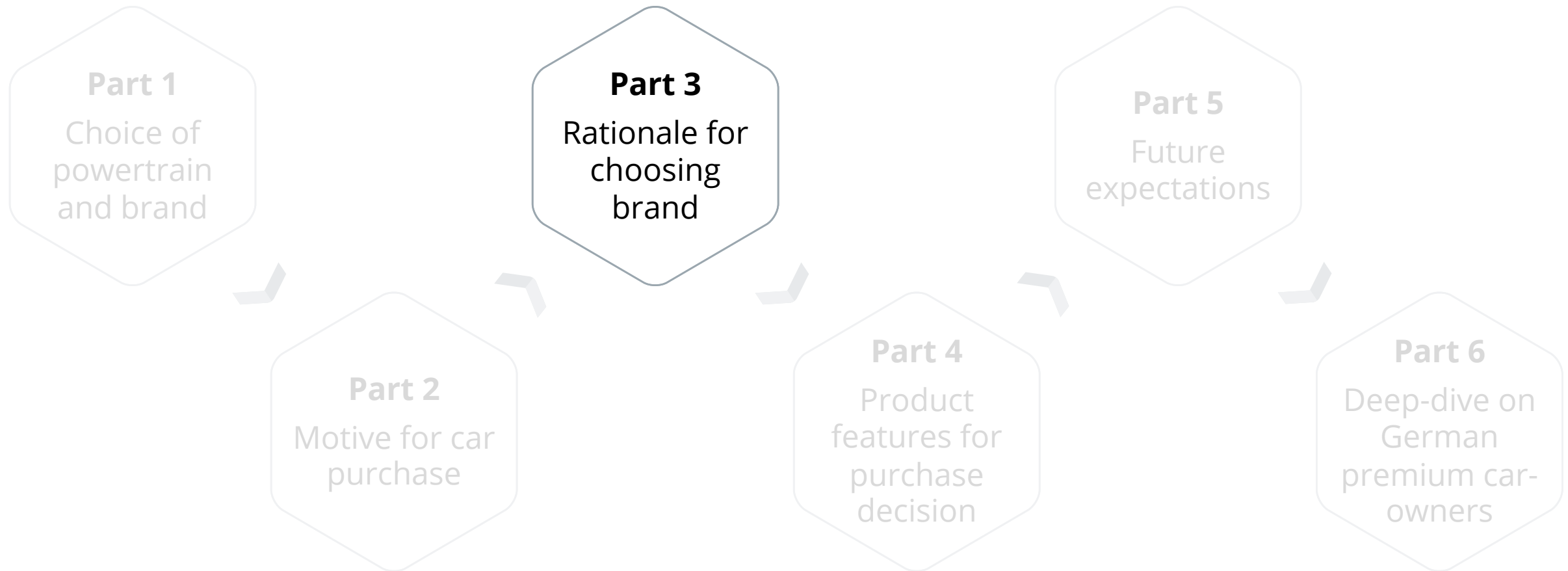
# KEY TAKEAWAYS (6/15) - PRIMARY PURCHASE MOTIVE BY AGE & GENDER

For 26 – 30 and female first-time buyers, the status reflection of Chinese premium are already close to that German premium



JUST AS CAR OWNERS, FOR AGE GROUP 26 – 30, STATUS REFLECTION OF CHINESE PREMIUM IS ALREADY **CLOSE TO** THAT OF GERMAN PREMIUM WHILE THE GAP AMONG FEMALES IS **CLOSING – THE TIPPING POINT IS REACHED!**

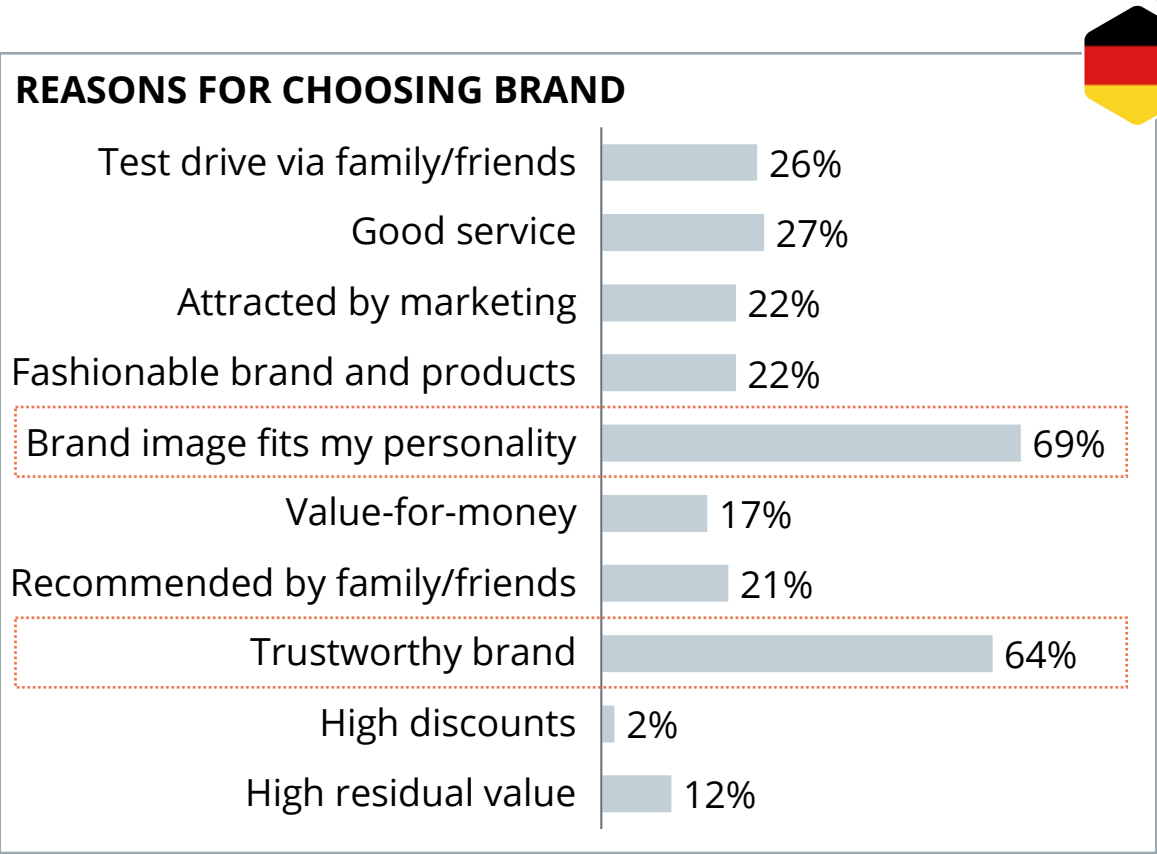
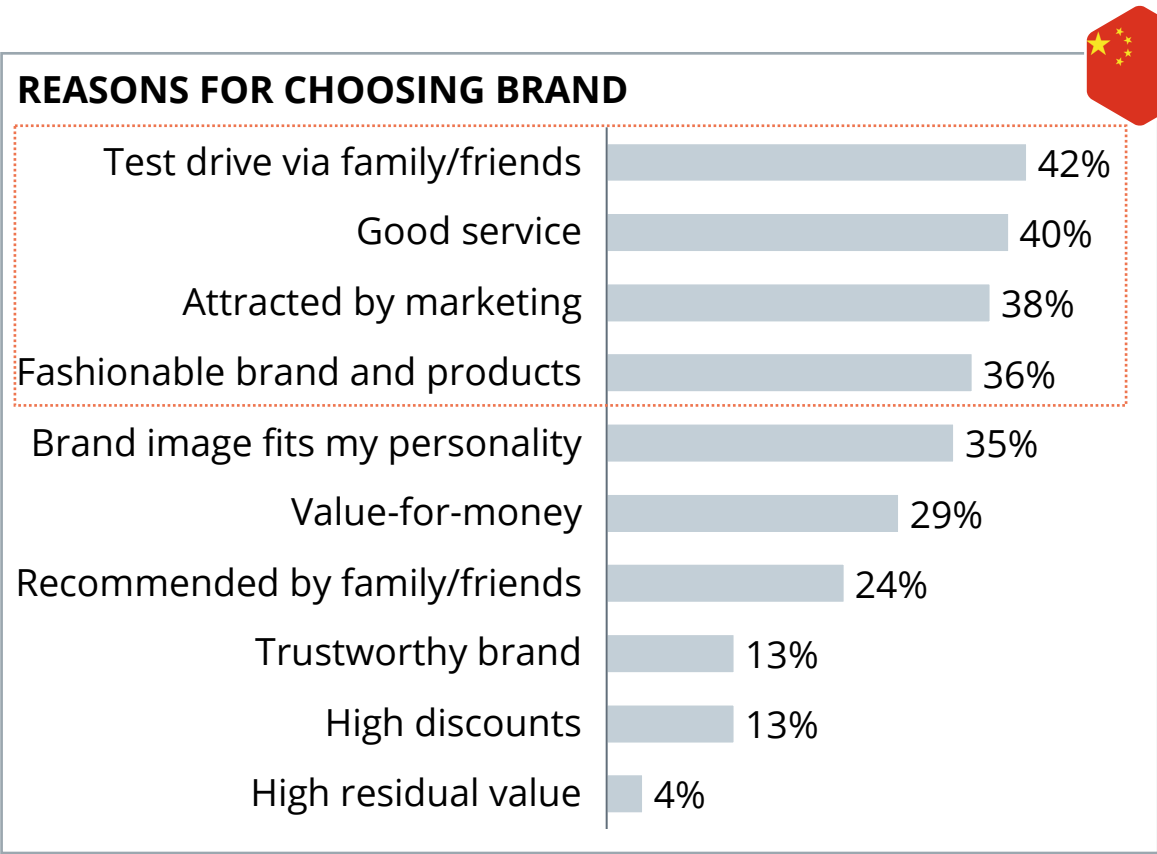
# RATIONALE FOR CHOOSING BRAND



Source: Berylls



KEY TAKEAWAYS (7/15) - REASONS FOR CHOOSING BRAND



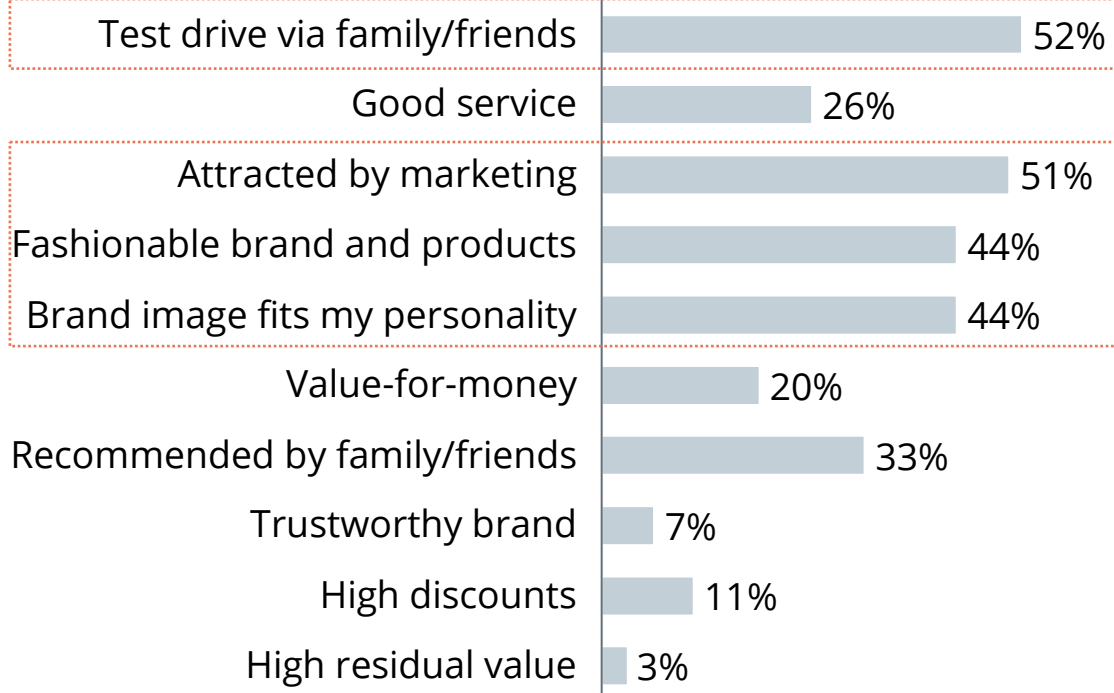
**TEST DRIVE, SERVICE, MARKETING AND BEING FASHIONABLE ARE THE MAIN FACTORS TO CHOOSE CHINESE BRANDS. FOR GERMAN PREMIUM THE DECISIVE FACTORS ARE **BRANDING RELATED****

Source: Berylls

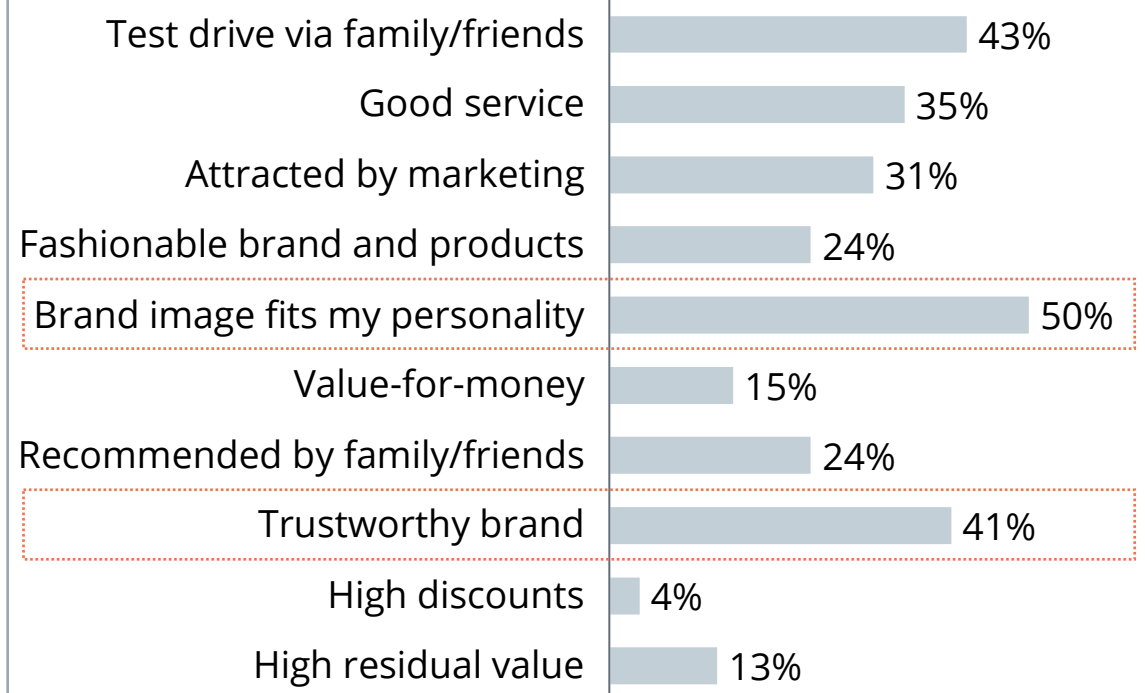


# KEY TAKEAWAYS (8/15) - REASONS FOR CHOOSING BRAND

## REASONS FOR CHOOSING BRAND

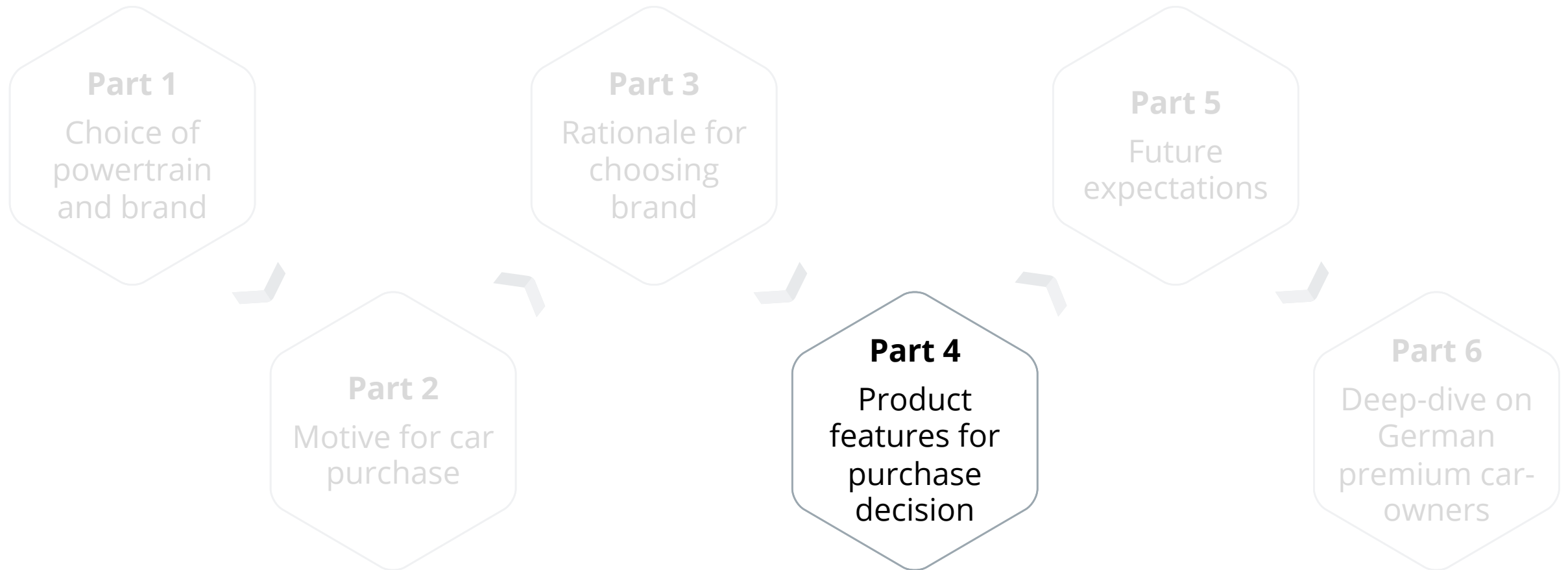


## REASONS FOR CHOOSING BRAND



FOR FIRST-TIME BUYERS, THE **BRANDING GAP NARROWS** EXCEPT FOR LEGACY ISSUE – AN OBSERVATION IN-LINE WITH FINDINGS 3 – 6. FIRST-TIME BUYERS WILL BE A **KEY BATTLEFIELD** FOR GERMAN PREMIUM OEMS!

# PRODUCT FEATURES FOR PURCHASE DECISION

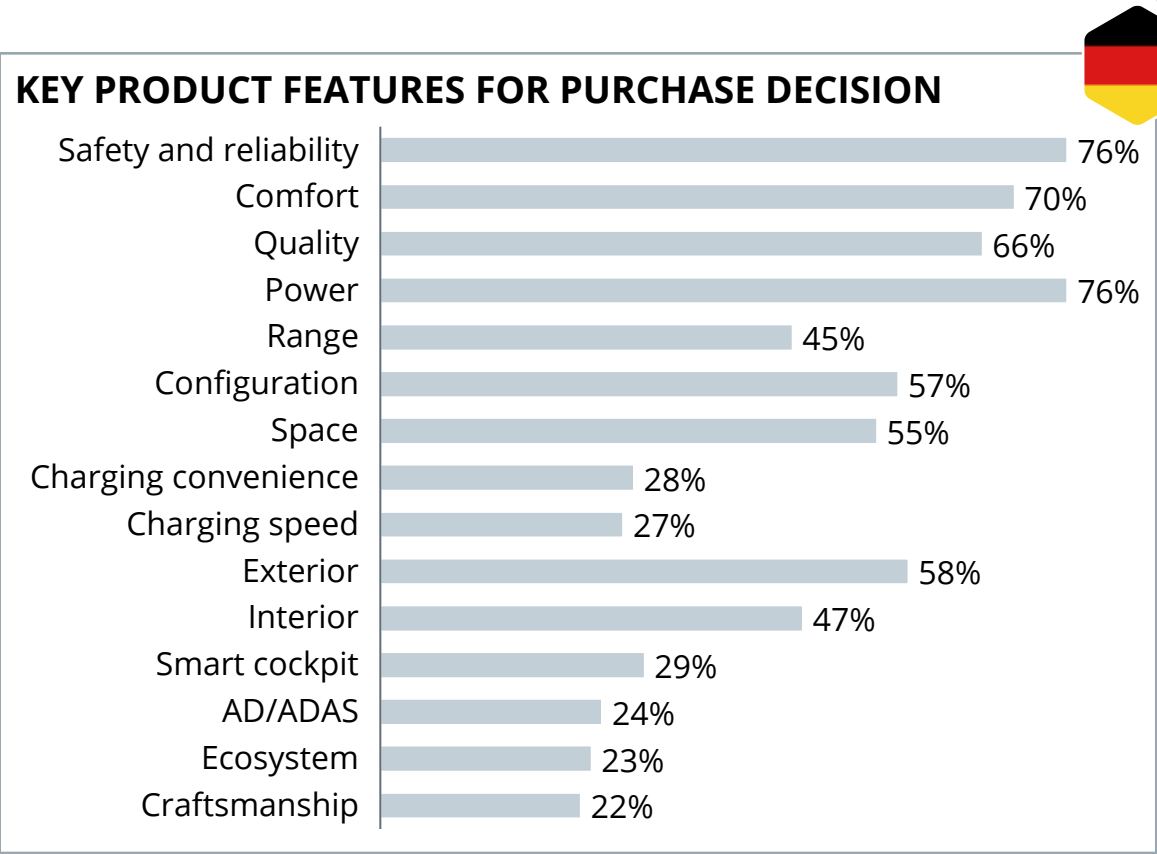
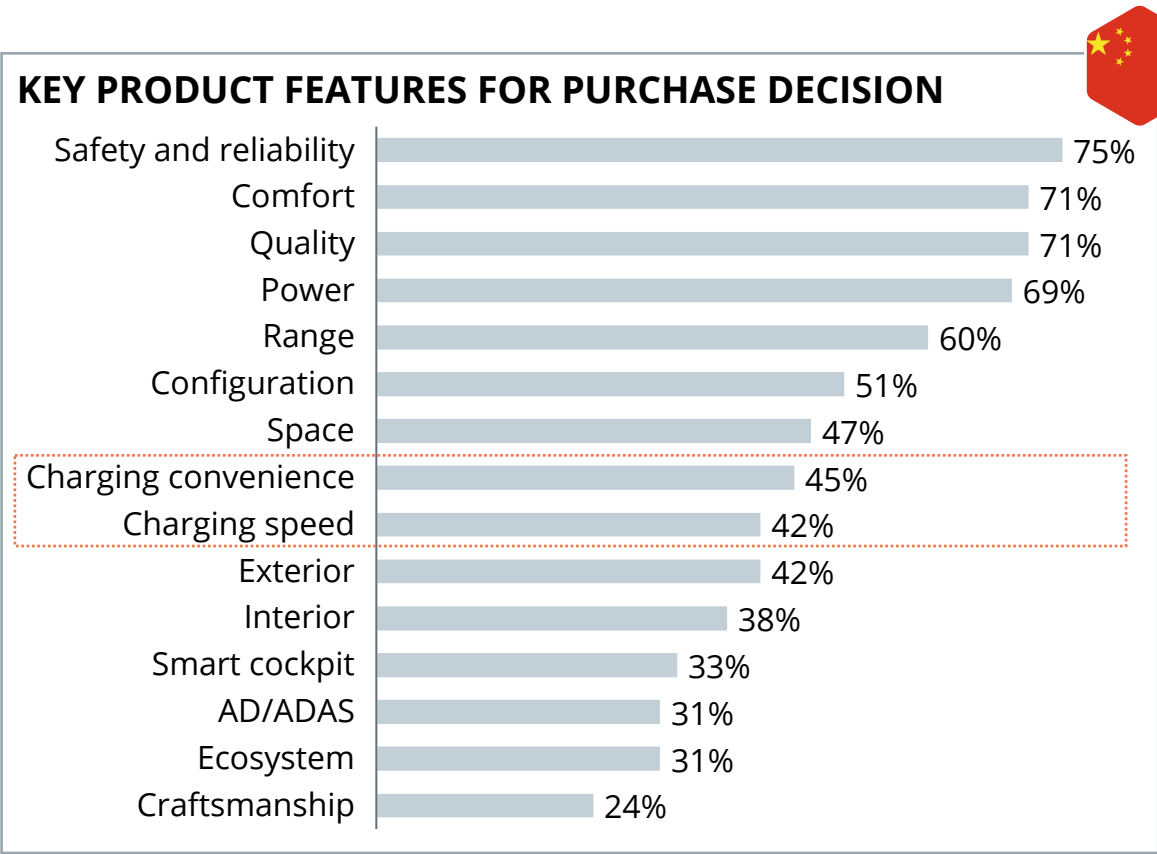


Source: Berylls





# KEY TAKEAWAYS (9/15) - KEY PRODUCT FEATURES FOR PURCHASE DECISION



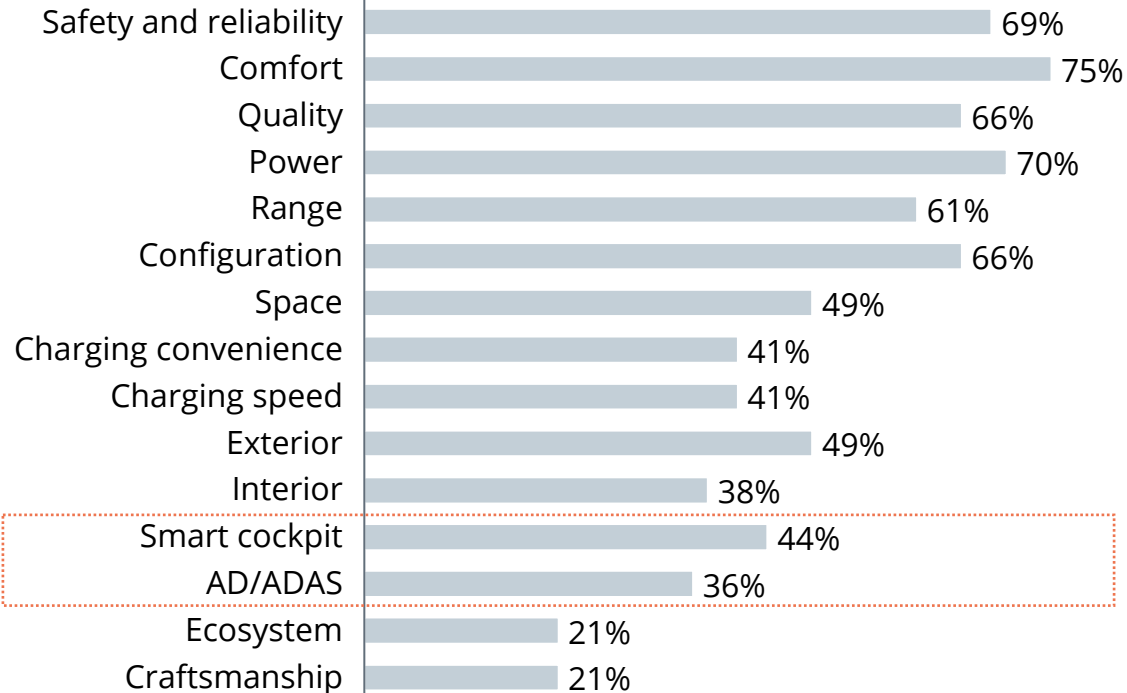
IN “**TRADITIONAL VIRTUES**”, CHINESE PREMIUM BEV SEEM TO BE **JUST AS GOOD** (OR EVEN BETTER, SEE QUALITY) AS THEIR GERMAN COUNTERPARTS. THESE CUSTOMERS ALSO ATTACH MORE IMPORTANCE TO **CHARGING**

Source: Berylls

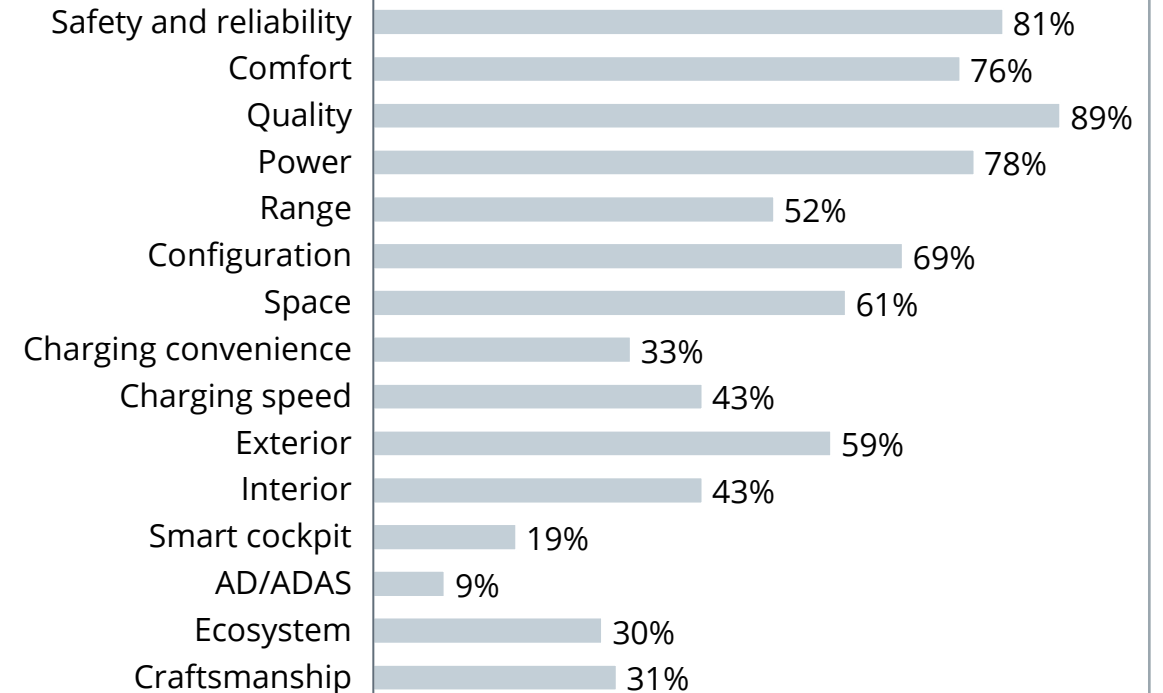


# KEY TAKEAWAYS (10/15) - KEY PRODUCT FEATURES FOR PURCHASE DECISION

## KEY PRODUCT FEATURES FOR PURCHASE DECISION

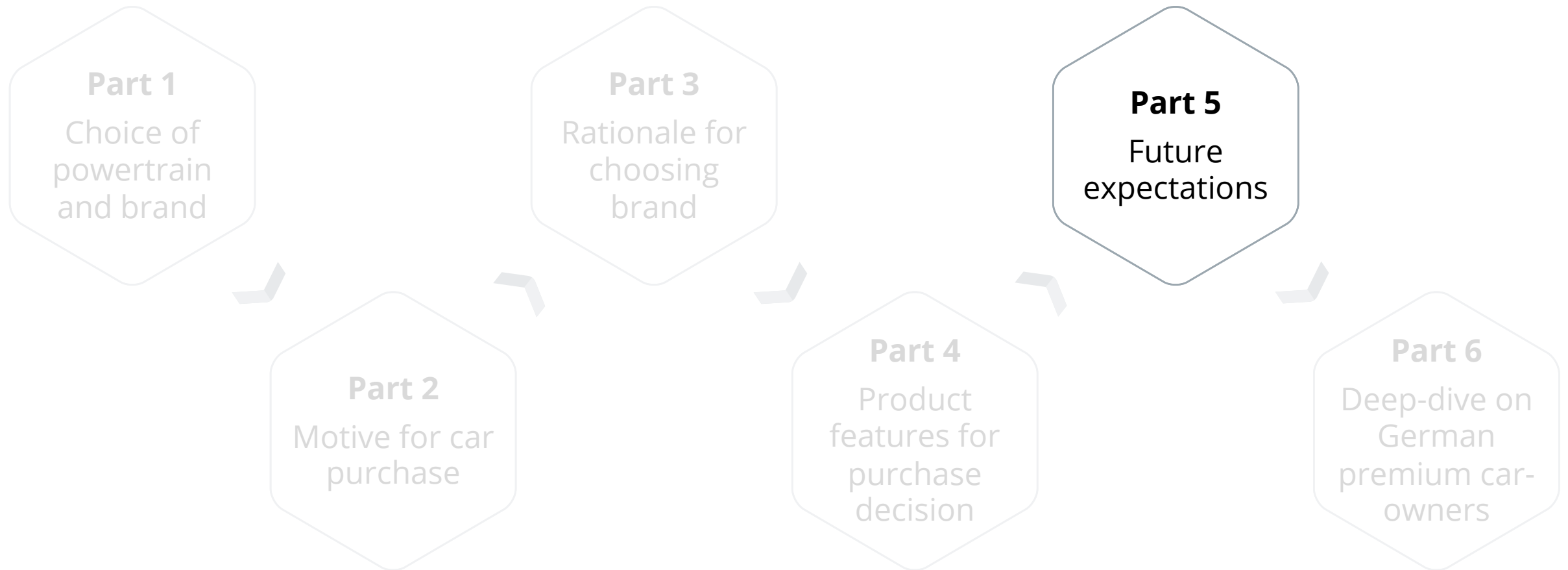


## KEY PRODUCT FEATURES FOR PURCHASE DECISION



FOR FIRST-TIME BUYERS, CHINESE NEW PLAYERS ARE THE GO-TO BRANDS WHEN THEY ATTACH IMPORTANCE TO **SMART COCKPIT AND AD/ADAS** WHILE GERMAN PLAYERS STILL HAVE ADVANTAGES IN “**TRADITIONAL VALUES**”

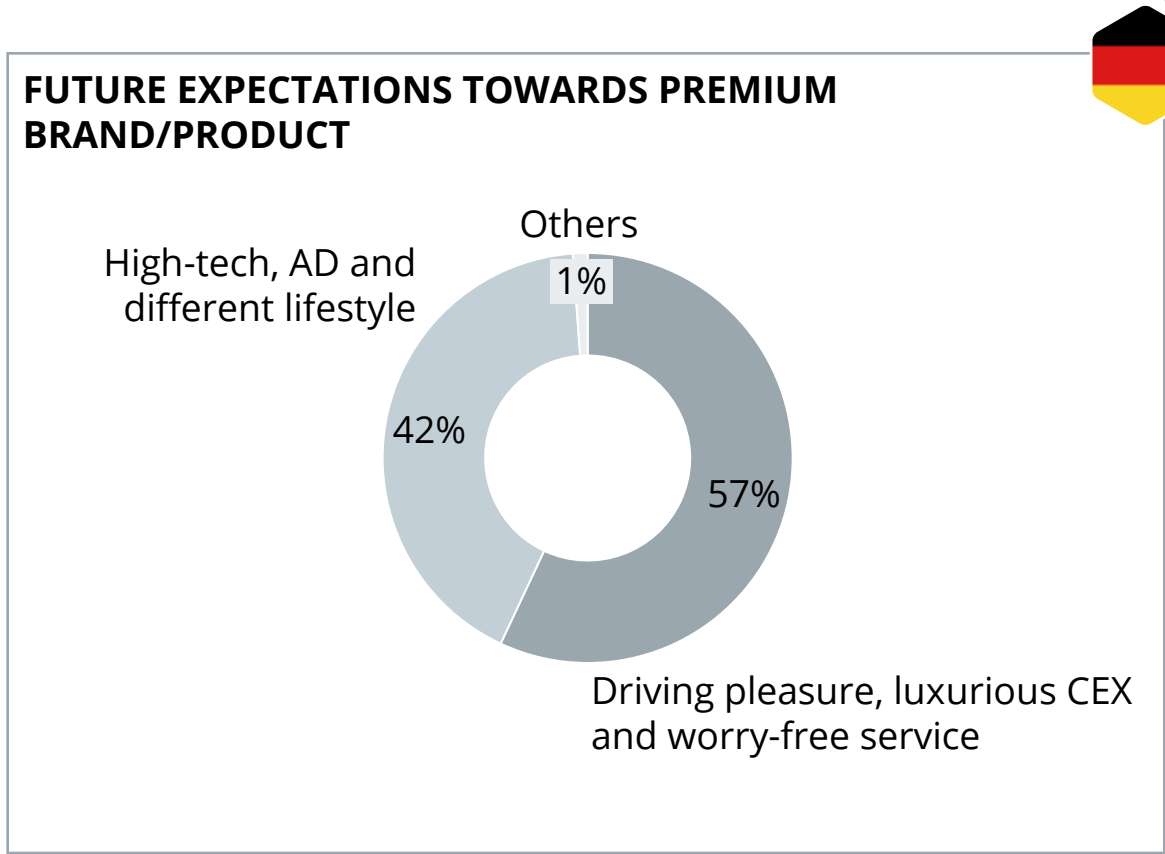
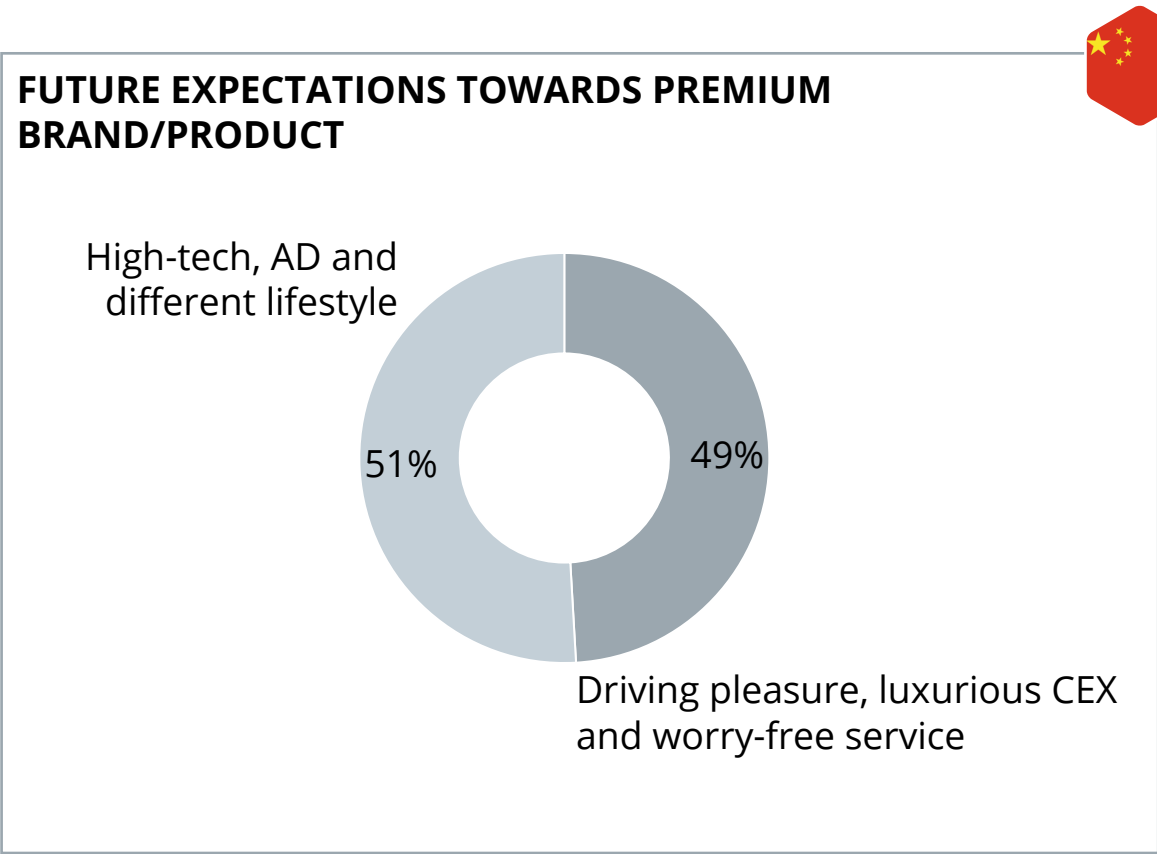
# FUTURE EXPECTATIONS



Source: Berylls



# KEY TAKEAWAYS (11/15) - FUTURE EXPECTATIONS FOR PREMIUM BRAND/PRODUCT

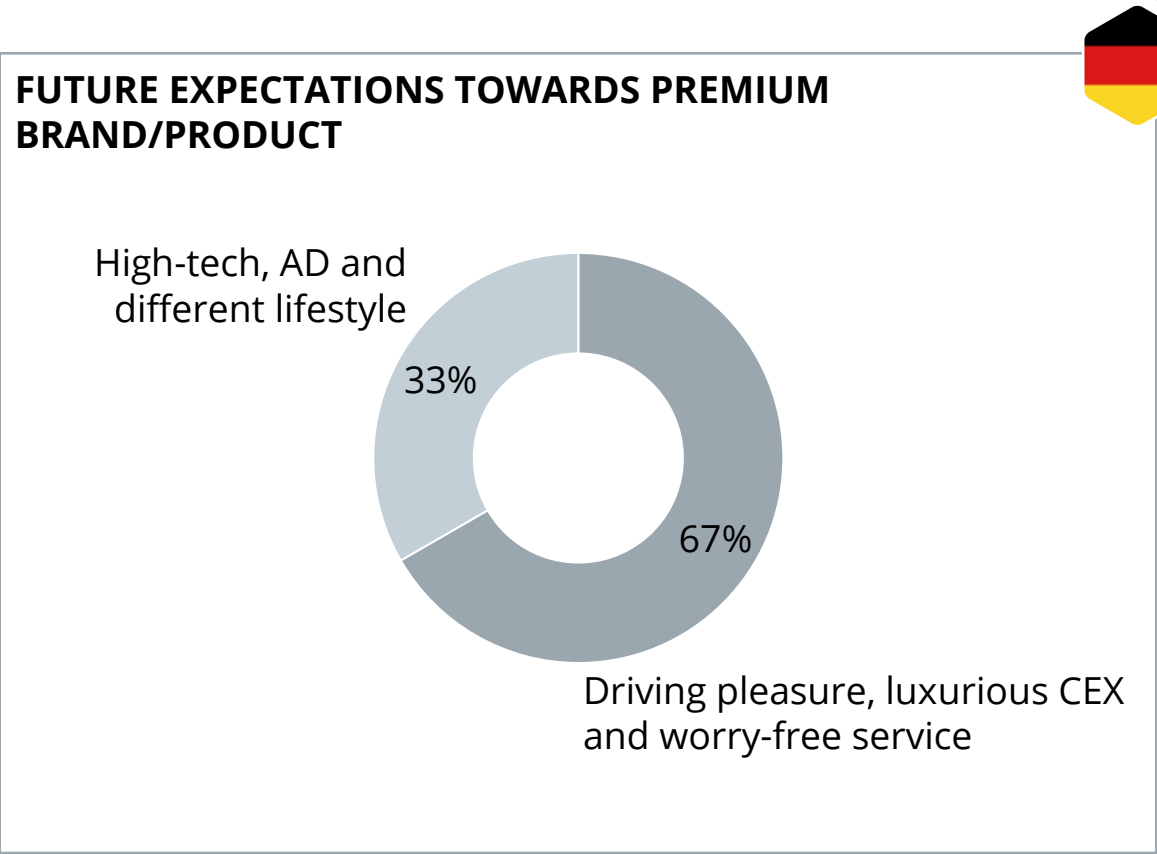
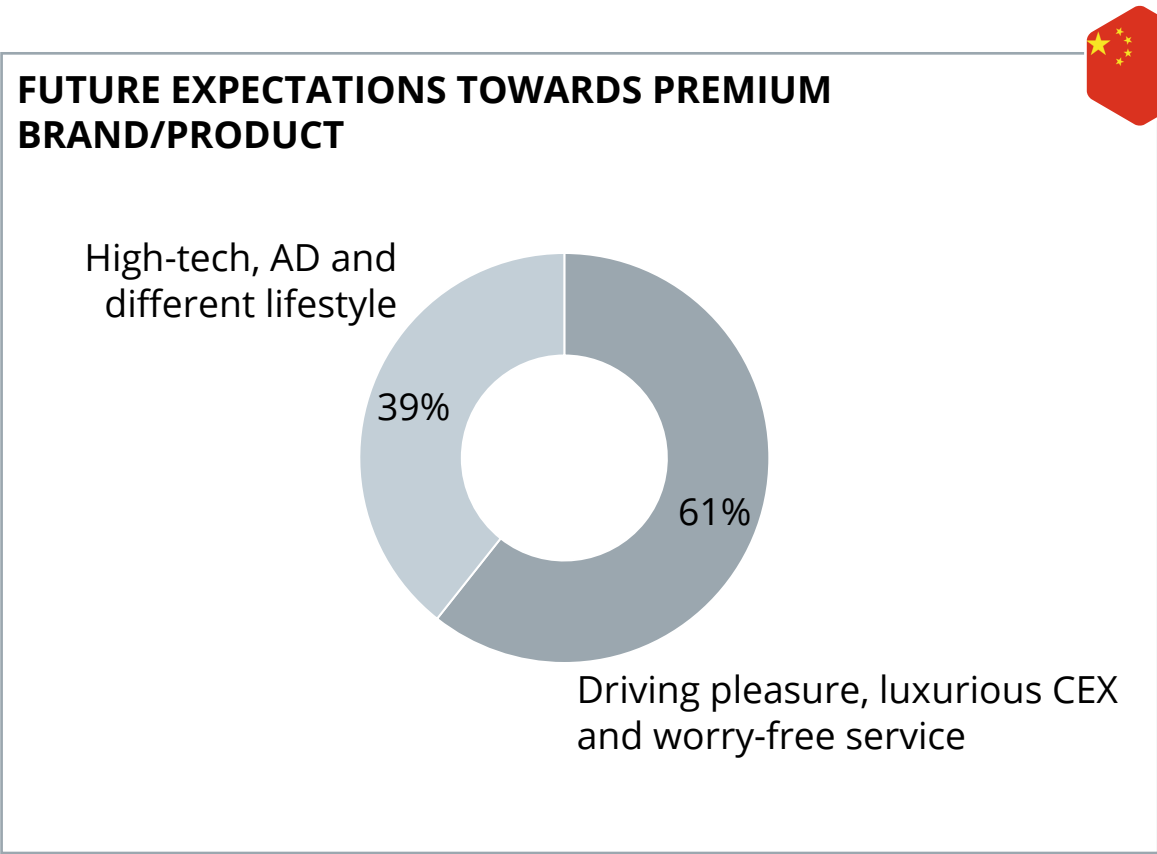


THOSE WHO BUY CHINESE PREMIUM ARE CERTAINLY **MORE INTERESTED IN TECH** THAN THEIR GERMAN COUNTERPARTS – A TYPICAL EXPRESSION OF WISHING FOR **MORE RELAXED DRIVING** WHILE IN HEAVY TRAFFIC

Source: Berylls



KEY TAKEAWAYS (12/15) - FUTURE EXPECTATIONS FOR PREMIUM BRAND/PRODUCT

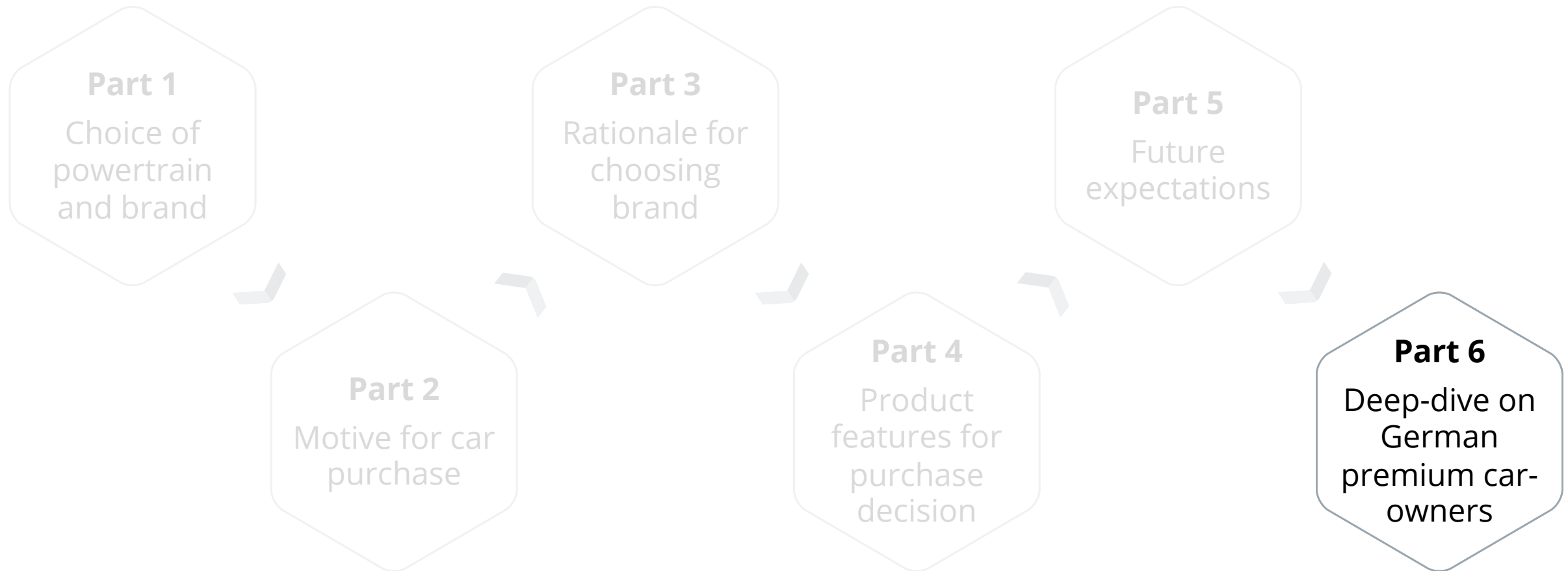


AMONG FIRST-TIME BUYERS, EXPECTATIONS ARE SIMILAR AMONG CHINESE AND GERMAN PREMIUM CUSTOMERS SIGNALLING THAT COMPETITION FOR FIRST-TIME WILL BE **VERY FIERCE** – IN LINE WITH FINDINGS 3 – 6 AND 8

Source: Berylls



# DEEP-DIVE ON GERMAN PREMIUM CAR-OWNERS

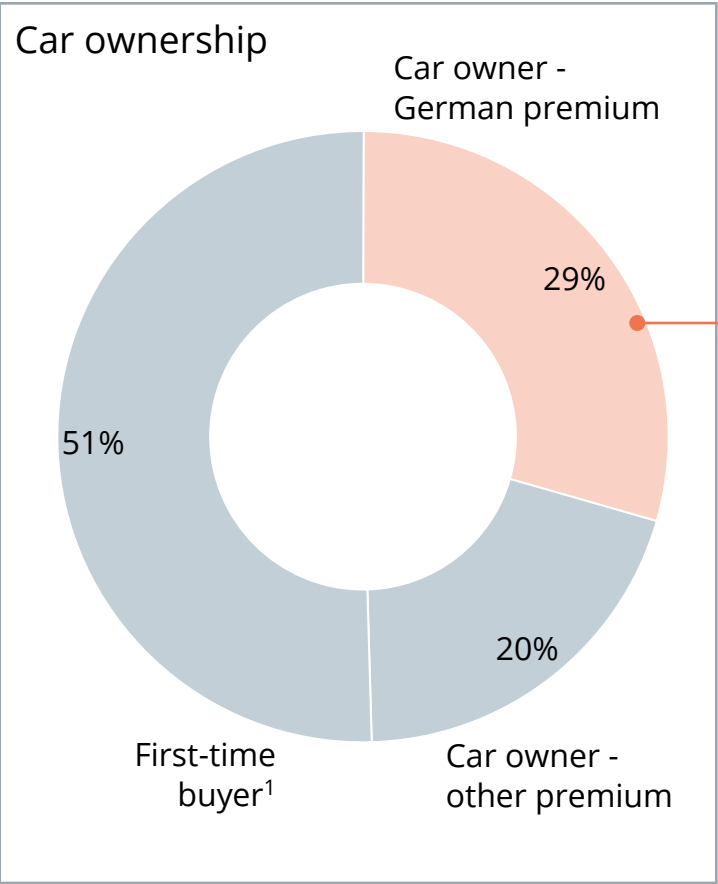


Source: Berylls

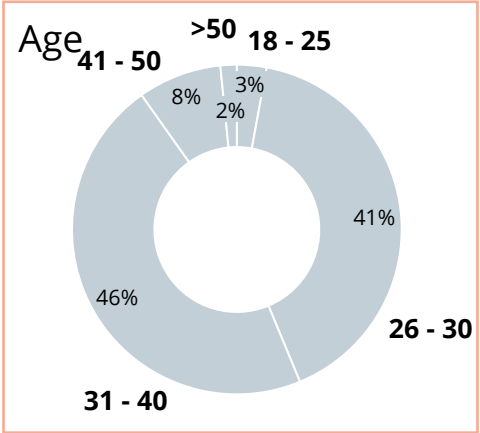
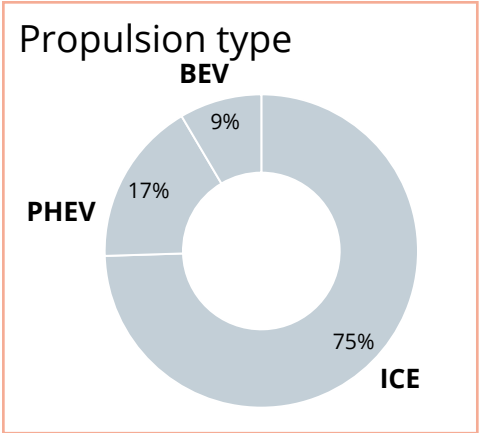
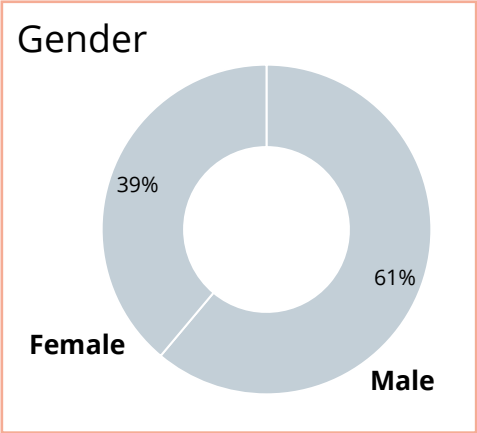




# GERMAN PREMIUM CAR OWNERS (1/2) - KEY FACTS



## Deep-dive owners of German premium

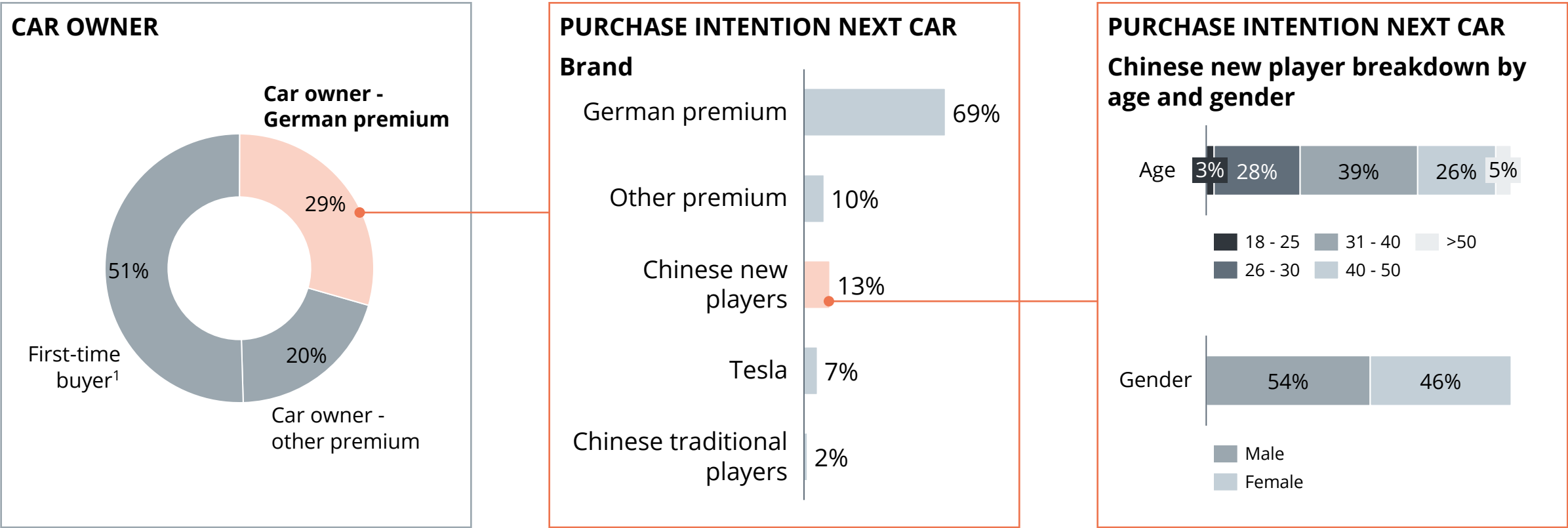


<sup>1</sup> With purchase intention  
Source: Berylls



# GERMAN PREMIUM CAR OWNERS (2/2) - NEXT CAR PURCHASE INTENTION

Only 13% of these car-owners would switch to Chinese new players



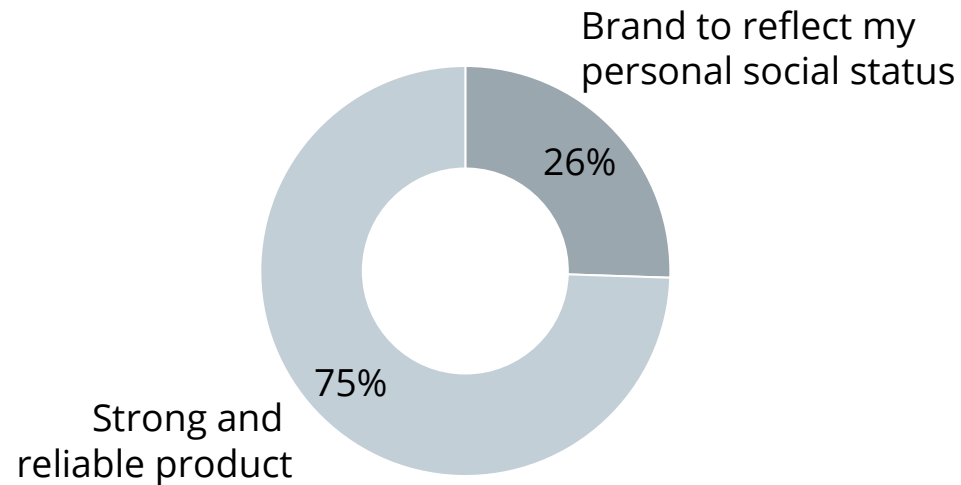
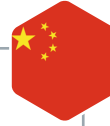
GERMAN PREMIUM CAR OWNERS ARE **LARGELY LOYAL** WITH 70% STAYING WITH GERMAN PREMIUM

Source: Berylls

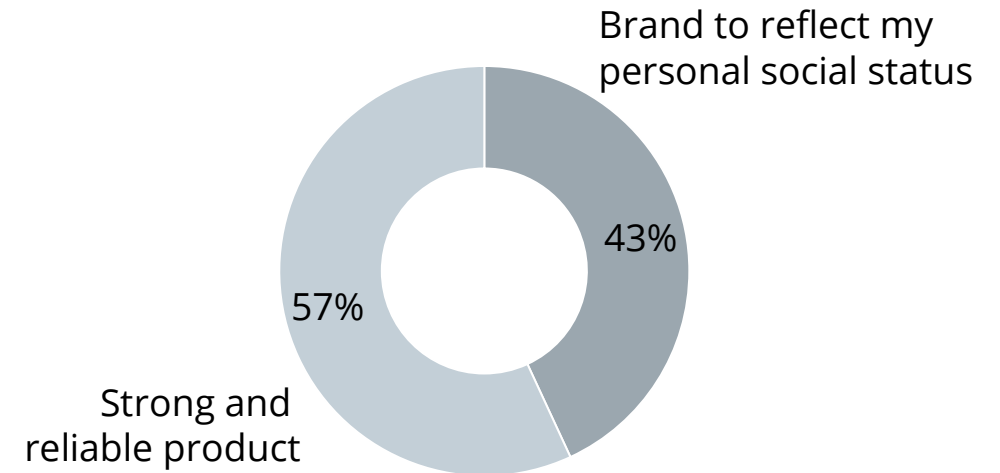


# KEY TAKEAWAYS (13/15) - MOTIVE FOR GERMAN PREMIUM CAR OWNER TO PURCHASE A CAR

## PRIMARY PURCHASE MOTIVE



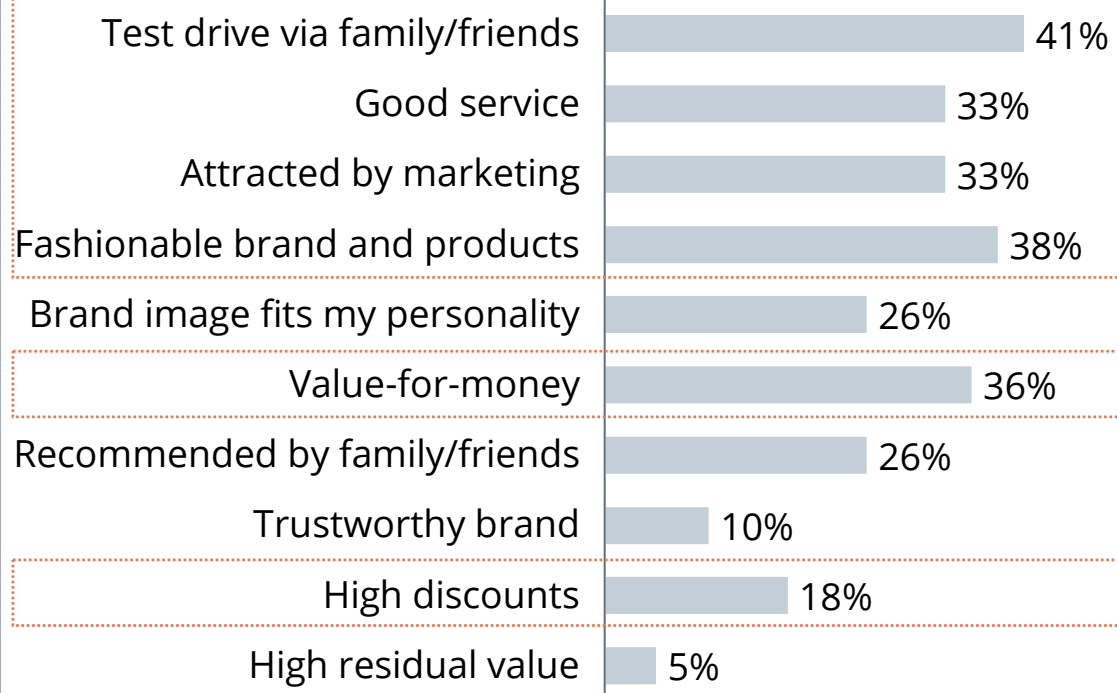
## PRIMARY PURCHASE MOTIVE



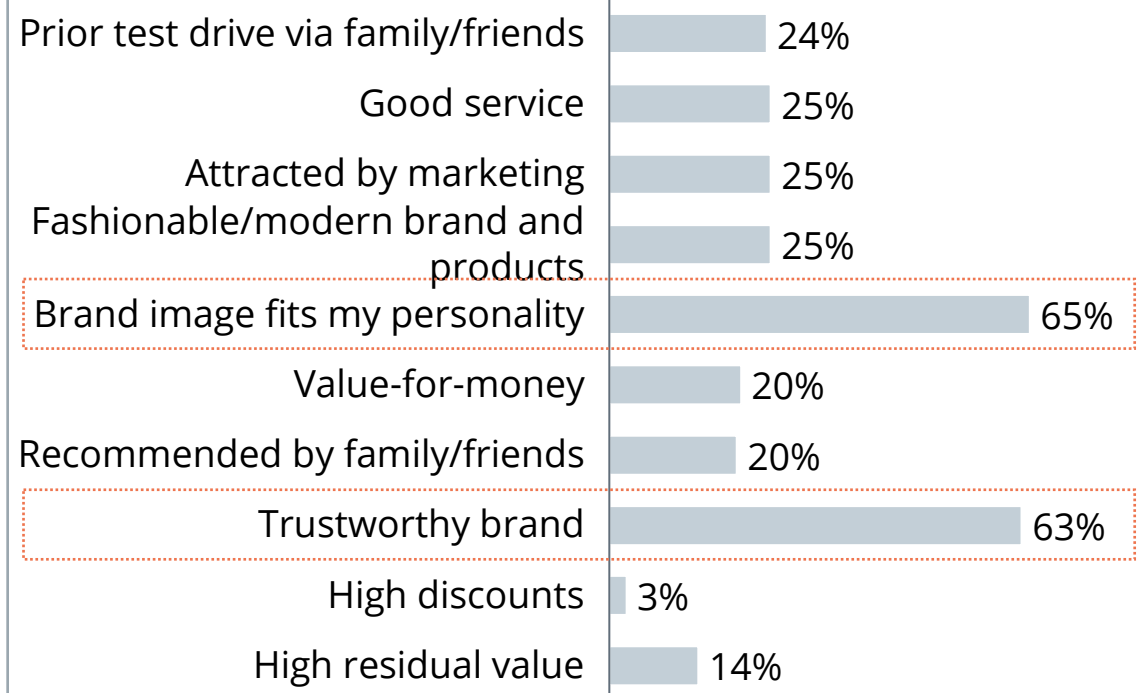
CLEARLY, THE PURCHASE MOTIVE FOR CHINESE NEW PLAYERS IS MOSTLY **PRODUCT FOCUSED**, FAR MORE THAN THE OVERALL SURVEYED GROUP. **A DANGEROUS DEVELOPMENT!**

# KEY TAKEAWAYS (14/15) - REASONS FOR CHOOSING BRAND

## REASONS FOR CHOOSING BRAND



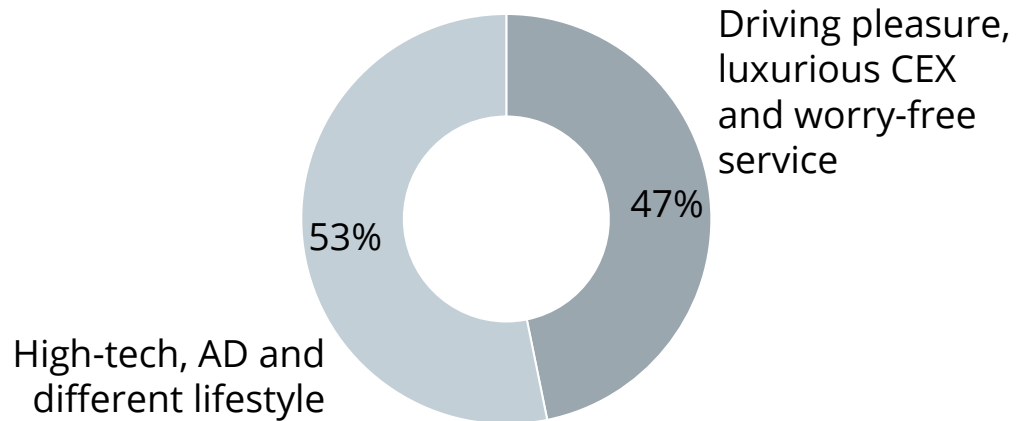
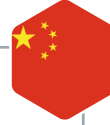
## REASONS FOR CHOOSING BRAND



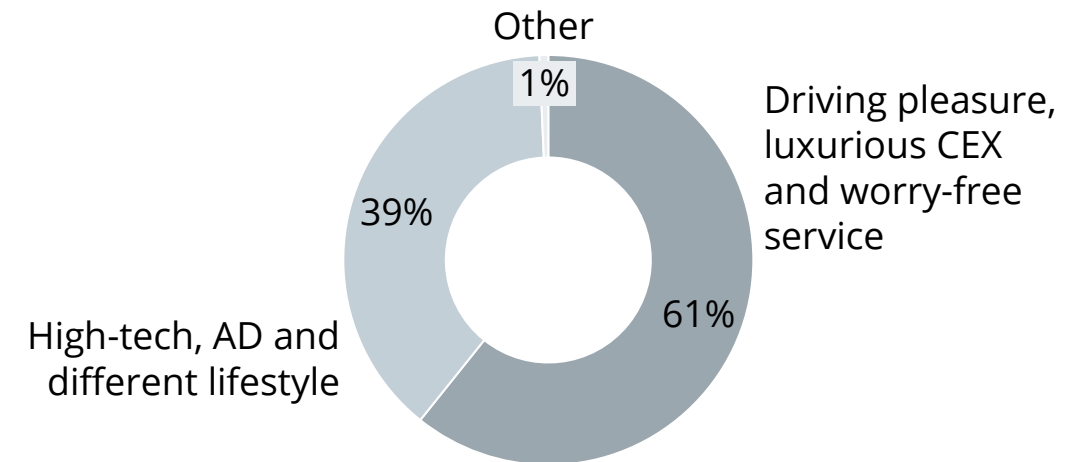
SIMILAR TO THE ENTIRE SURVEY GROUP, GERMAN PREMIUM CAR-OWNERS SWITCH TO CHINESE BRAND BECAUSE OF **PRODUCT, SERVICE, MARKETING AND BRANDING** AS WELL AS **VALUE-FOR-MONEY** AND **DISCOUNTS**

# KEY TAKEAWAYS (15/15) - FUTURE EXPECTATIONS

## FUTURE EXPECTATIONS TOWARDS PREMIUM BRAND/PRODUCT



## FUTURE EXPECTATIONS TOWARDS PREMIUM BRAND/PRODUCT



FOR GERMAN PREMIUM CAR-OWNERS SWITCHING TO CHINESE BRANDS, THE MAJORITY OF EXPECTATION IS **TECH AND ASSOCIATED ATTRIBUTES**

# WHAT DOES THIS ALL MEAN? IMPLICATIONS FOR TRADITIONAL GERMAN OEMS

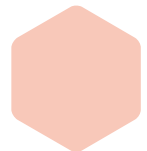
OEMs have to adapt more to Chinese needs and be closer to the Premium/Luxury customers



China is different and must be **treated differently**



While relying on its brand heritage and legacy, German OEMs must **focus on product** to remain relevant



These are, in particular, **AD/ADAS, smart cockpit and e-mobility** features



All these must be marketed in **China-specific ways**, especially leveraging the **community notion**





Maximilianstraße 34 | 80539 München  
T +49 89 710 410 40-0 | F +49 89 710 410 40-99

[info@berylls.com](mailto:info@berylls.com) | [www.berylls.com](http://www.berylls.com)