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SIMPLY CLEVER

PRESS RELEASE

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ŠKODA AUTO opens multifunctional competence centre of at Kvasiny plant

- › Testing and quality centre, logistics centre, storage areas for pre-series vehicles and event hall in one complex
- › Former testing centre to develop and produce future ŠKODA SUPERB Plug-in-Hybrid
- › New power distribution grid and charging stations for electric vehicles in Kvasiny form the basis for the launch of e-mobility

Kvasiny, 11 May 2018 – ŠKODA AUTO is continuing to modernise its Kvasiny production site, opening a new competence centre. The car manufacturer now combines a testing and quality centre, a logistics training centre, an event hall and storage areas for pre-series vehicles at the multifunctional facility. The company has invested a total of 13.5 million euros in the new complex. At the same time, the Kvasiny plant is preparing to embark on the road to electromobility: The production site is establishing a new electricity distribution network and charging stations for electric vehicles. Production of the ŠKODA SUPERB plug-in hybrid is also to be launched in Kvasiny in 2019.

“Our investments and the opening of the new, multifunctional competence centre are the next big step in consistently and sustainably preparing the Kvasiny site for the developments in the automotive industry,” says Michael Oeljeklaus, ŠKODA AUTO Board Member for Production and Logistics. “The plant will play a crucial role in achieving our production goals, which we have defined as part of our 2025 strategy.”

Frank Schreier, Head of Quality Assurance at ŠKODA AUTO adds: “Thanks to state-of-the-art technology, our new quality centre enables us to test and analyse our vehicles to even more stringent standards. We are constantly working to ensure and consistently improve quality at all levels.”

All the areas for vehicle tests and analyses are now under one roof in the new competence centre – for example, the acoustic laboratory, odour laboratory and vibration test stands. The shorter distances between the individual departments accelerates the inspection processes, allowing the respective results to be evaluated more quickly.

In the water chamber, climate conditions varying from fine drizzle to tropical downpours can be simulated with more than 50 litres of water per square meter at over 30 degrees Celsius. In addition, the test centre features a state-of-the-art “silent cabin”, where acousticians can monitor disruptive driving noise. Vibrations of the entire vehicle can be simulated with the “shaker”, and there is also a laboratory dedicated to dynamic tests.

The competence centre also includes a state-of-the-art logistics centre, which is now fully operational after taking just nine months to construct. The plant’s logistics area covers approximately 1500 square meters – around one third of the total floor space – where, for example, parts for the construction of pre-series vehicles will be stored. The training facility is 800 square metres.





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At the logistics training centre, skilled workers are trained in handling small and large load carriers (KLT/GLT), automated guided vehicle systems (AGVs) and trailers with E-frames. The range of additional practice-based training opportunities includes, for example, the handling of in-plant IT systems, as well as the areas of shelf and block warehouse logistics, goods in and out, ergonomics and various pick-by solutions. One of the training rooms provides the conditions for a virtual training.

The state-of-the-art complex covers almost 10,000 square meters of floor space – approximately one and a half football fields. In addition to numerous office and group workspaces, the facility also offers social rooms for the employees, as well as health stations and cloakrooms.

The ŠKODA AUTO plant in Kvasiny is currently undergoing the most comprehensive modernisation and expansion in its history. During the SUV campaign, which began with the ŠKODA KODIAQ, the car manufacturer has so far invested around seven billion Czech crowns into modernising production processes. Over the coming years, the production capacity of the Kvasiny plant will increase to more than 300,000 vehicles per year. Currently, the ŠKODA models SUPERB, KODIAQ and the compact SUV ŠKODA KAROQ are produced at this location. In 2019, the ŠKODA SUPERB PHEV – ŠKODA AUTO's first plug-in hybrid model – will be launched in Kvasiny.

As one of the largest employers in the Hradec Králové region, ŠKODA AUTO is also investing in the regional infrastructure and promoting the attractiveness of the location through its diverse social programme.

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ŠKODA AUTO opens multifunctional competence centre at Kvasiny plant

With the opening of the multifunctional competence centre at the Kvasiny plant, ŠKODA AUTO is continuing the modernisation of its production location in Kvasiny (from left to right): Jaroslav Vlk, Head of Quality Assurance Kvasiny, Frank Schreier, Head of Quality Assurance, Michael Oeljeklaus, ŠKODA AUTO Board Member for Production and Logistics, Martin Lustyk, Chairman of the KOVO union Kvasiny, Lubomír Vasický, Head of Production Planning and Jiří Černý, Head of Vehicle Manufacturing Kvasiny.

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With the opening of the multifunctional centre of excellence at the Kvasiny plant, ŠKODA AUTO is continuing the modernisation of its production location in Kvasiny (from left to right): Jaroslav Vlk, Head of Quality Assurance Kvasiny, Frank Schreier, Head of Quality Assurance, Michael Oeljeklaus, ŠKODA AUTO Board Member for Production and Logistics, Martin Lustyk, Chairman of the KOVO union Kvasiny, Jiří Černý, Head of Vehicle Manufacturing Kvasiny and Lubomír Vasický, Head of Production Planning.

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ŠKODA AUTO

- › is one of the longest-established vehicle manufacturers in the world. The company was founded in 1895 – during the pioneering days of the automobile. Today, the company's headquarters remain in Mladá Boleslav.
- › currently offers the following models in the range: CITIGO, FABIA, RAPID, OCTAVIA, KAROQ, KODIAQ and SUPERB.
- › in 2017 delivered more than 1.2 million vehicles to customers worldwide.
- › has belonged to Volkswagen Group since 1991. The Volkswagen Group is one of the most successful vehicle manufacturers in the world. ŠKODA AUTO, in association with the Group, independently manufactures and develops vehicles, as well as components, engines and gear transmissions.
- › operates at three locations in the Czech Republic, produces in China, Russia, Slovakia, Algeria and India mainly through Group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine and Kazakhstan through local partners.
- › employs over 35,000 people globally and is active in more than 100 markets.

