



**ŠKODA**  
SIMPLY CLEVER

# PRESS RELEASE

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## ŠKODA AUTO opens automatic small parts warehouse at main plant in Mladá Boleslav

- › ŠKODA AUTO has invested around 8 million euros in its small parts warehouse in Mladá Boleslav
- › Robots transport small parts from the automatic warehouse to the assembly line
- › High level of automation increases the efficiency of processes in production logistics

**Mladá Boleslav, 13 November 2018 – ŠKODA AUTO is pressing ahead with the implementation of technologies in line with Industry 4.0 principles: the grand opening of an automatic small parts warehouse took place at the main plant in Mladá Boleslav today. The high level of automation makes it possible to increase the efficiency of work processes in the plant's small parts logistics. One example of this is the use of robots which put small parts into storage and transport them directly from the warehouse to the assembly line. ŠKODA AUTO has been operating a similar small parts warehouse in Kvasiny for around one year.**

Michael Oeljeklaus, ŠKODA AUTO Board Member for Production and Logistics, said, "Last year, we were already able to significantly improve the production logistics processes at our Kvasiny plant. We are now also taking the efficiency of the processes at our main plant to a new level with the new automatic small parts warehouse. The warehouse in Mladá Boleslav is considerably larger and optimally prepares the plant for the future demands of car manufacturing with state-of-the-art technology in line with the principles of Industry 4.0."

Michael Oeljeklaus officially opened the new automatic small parts warehouse (ASPW) together with Jiří Cee, Head of Brand Logistics, and KOVO Union MB representative, Miloš Kovář. The warehouse has been in operation since July 2018. ŠKODA AUTO has invested around 8 million euros in the construction of the small parts warehouse.

The ASPW is rigorously applying Industry 4.0 principles. The small parts are now stored and removed from the respective shelves fully automatically. From there, they are delivered to the assembly line just-in-sequence as required. This means that they arrive in exactly the order in which they are required and fitted. Automation makes it possible to further increase working precision, accelerate logistics processes and further minimise the error rate. Robots take the strain off the employees by taking on the physically demanding work. This frees up the employees' time for tasks such as scanning labels or moving small load carriers (SLC) in the incoming and outgoing goods areas.

Covering 2,000 m<sup>2</sup>, the new ASPW in Mladá Boleslav offers plenty of space for 71,000 small load carriers. Per hour, up to 580 of these small plastic crates can be stored in the shelves which are 14 metres high. The same number of SLCs can be handled in order picking, i.e. outgoing goods. Two robots store the parts and two other robots take them out and deliver them just-in-sequence to production.

In July 2017, ŠKODA opened a similar small parts warehouse at its Kvasiny plant, offering space for 45,000 SLCs. In June 2018, ŠKODA was awarded the expert audience prize at the ELA European Logistics Awards for the Kvasiny warehouse.

By commissioning the automatic small parts warehouse in Mladá Boleslav, ŠKODA AUTO is pressing ahead with the digitalisation of its production – a key pillar of its 2025 Strategy.



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## Media images:



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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



### ŠKODA AUTO opens automatic small parts warehouse at main plant in Mladá Boleslav

The high level of automation makes it possible to further increase the efficiency of work processes in the Czech car manufacturer's small parts logistics. One example of this is the use of robots which put small parts into storage and transport them directly from the warehouse to the assembly line.

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## ŠKODA AUTO

- › was founded during the pioneering days of the automobile in 1895, making it one of the longest-established car companies in the world.
- › currently offers its customers eight passenger-car series: the CITIGO, FABIA, RAPID, OCTAVIA, KAROQ, KODIAQ, as well as the KAMIQ (in China) and the SUPERB.
- › delivered more than 1.2 million vehicles to customers around the world in 2017.
- › has been a part of Volkswagen Group since 1991. Volkswagen Group is one of the most successful vehicle manufacturers in the world. In association with the Group, ŠKODA AUTO independently develops and manufactures vehicles, as well as components such as engines and transmissions.
- › operates at three locations in the Czech Republic; manufactures in China, Russia, Slovakia, Algeria and India mainly through Group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine and Kazakhstan with local partners.
- › employs over 35,000 people globally and is active in more than 100 markets.
- › is pressing ahead with the transformation from a traditional car manufacturer to the 'Simply Clever company for the best mobility solutions' as part of the ŠKODA 2025 Strategy.

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