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SIMPLY CLEVER

# PRESS RELEASE

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## ŠKODA AUTO, PRE and Chakratec bring unique charging technology to Prague

- › Charging station uses flywheel technology and does not require chemical battery cells
- › This enables the Kinetic Power Booster in Prague to have twice as much power as the national grid
- › The system allows for fast charging even in places with a weak grid
- › Start-up Chakratec, inventor of the Kinetic Power Booster, was scouted by ŠKODA AUTO DigiLab Israel Ltd

**Mladá Boleslav / Prague, 14 November 2019 – In Prague, ŠKODA AUTO DigiLab has started the pilot of a particularly innovative fast-charging station. It uses kinetic flywheel technology and provides twice as much electricity as the national grid can supply. The charging point at the Prague Exhibition Centre in Letňany is the first of its kind in the Czech Republic and only the third in the world. The innovative charging technology was developed by the Israeli start-up Chakratec. The company was discovered and brought on board by ŠKODA AUTO DigiLab Israel Ltd.**

Recently at the Smart Mobility Summit in Tel Aviv at the end of October, ŠKODA AUTO announced [new partnerships with innovative mobility start-ups](#) and tech companies that develop hardware and software solutions for the automotive industry. Chakratec, developer of the Kinetic Power Booster, is one of these companies. The innovative system makes it possible to supply electric vehicles with power using fast-charging technology, even where there is ordinarily insufficient power. The charging station absorbs peak loads in the grid, accelerating its flywheels to high speeds and storing the electricity as kinetic energy. When an electric car is then connected, the Kinetic Power Booster releases this as electricity, and in doing so doubles the charging power that the national grid could have provided on its own. This makes this clever solution ideal for car dealerships or shopping centres, for example.

Andre Wehner, Chief Digital Officer at ŠKODA AUTO, said, “The collaboration with Chakratec shows how innovative ideas can be turned into concrete projects by being scouted and specifically supported by our ŠKODA AUTO DigiLab in Tel Aviv. With our decision to set up the world’s third Kinetic Power Booster in Prague, we are demonstrating that we are consistently working on a comprehensive range of services for our customers in terms of E-Mobility and integrated mobility services.”

Vojtěch Fried, Electromobility Manager at PRE added, “The technology developed by Chakratec, which provides the necessary electricity for battery-powered vehicles to be charged quickly, marks another step towards the future of individual mobility. As the operator of the largest charging network in Prague, we feel it is important for us to be involved as a strong partner in the roll-out of the Kinetic Power Booster right from the start.”

Ilan-Ben David, CEO of Chakratec, stated, “Our collaboration with ŠKODA AUTO and PRE marks an important milestone for us. We’ve taken up the challenge and are ready to advance E-Mobility together with our partners.”



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The Chakratec system stores energy when there is surplus electricity, and also relieves the strain on the grid at peak times. In contrast to battery-based charging stations, the capacity remains the same at all times. What's more, the purely mechanical Kinetic Power Booster is remarkably eco-friendly as it does not make use of chemical battery cells. Furthermore, it allows for around 200,000 fast-charge and discharge cycles. This corresponds to a lifespan of about 20 years.

The booster's technical centrepiece is the ten flywheels housed in a container, where they rotate in a vacuum. If electricity is supplied from the grid, they speed up. As soon as a vehicle is connected to be recharged, the flywheels generate additional electricity themselves, slowing down in the process. This functionality allows the booster to store sufficient energy to simultaneously charge two ŠKODA CITIGO<sub>e</sub> iVs with twice as much power as the national grid can provide alone. Once a car's battery has been topped up, the flywheels need time to return to their operating speed – for the 100-kW station in Prague, this takes about 45 minutes.

The fast-charging station in Prague-Letňany is being operated by project partner PRE Group. ŠKODA AUTO DigiLab and PRE are announcing the official launch at the e-SALON. The electromobility trade show is taking place from 14–17 November at the Prague Exhibition Centre in Letňany.

To allow users of an electric car to get to know the technology, they can currently recharge their cars for free. Prices and payment methods for regular operation will be announced by the operator at a later date. Depending on the results of the trial, the partners are planning to set up further Chakratec fast-charging stations both in the Czech Republic as well as other countries.

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## Media images:



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Source: ŠKODA AUTO

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO

### 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 nine passenger-car series: the CITIGO, FABIA, RAPID, SCALA, OCTAVIA, KAROQ, KODIAQ, as well as the KAMIQ and the SUPERB.
- › delivered more than 1.25 million vehicles to customers around the world in 2018.
- › has been 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 39,000 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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