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ŠKODA AUTO opens state-of-the-art crash lab at the Polygon test centre in Úhelnice near Mladá Boleslav

- › Technical equipment suitable for all current crash test scenarios including latest Euro NCAP
- › Modernised lab is also prepared for crash tests on electric vehicles
- › LED lighting systems and new camera technology allow for both the highest quality of crash test recording and significant energy savings

Mladá Boleslav, 3 March 2020 – ŠKODA AUTO has put a state-of-the-art crash lab into operation. The test centre at the Polygon site in Úhelnice near Mladá Boleslav is designed for all known crash test scenarios, most notably the new requirements of the European New Car Assessment Programme (Euro NCAP) that came into force at the beginning of 2020. LED lighting systems and cutting-edge camera technology allow for high-quality recording of all crash tests as well as significant energy savings. ŠKODA AUTO has set up a separate area for handling electric cars following a crash test. The new lab will be able to assess the passive safety both of ŠKODA models and of other Volkswagen Group brand vehicles.

Christian Strube, ŠKODA AUTO Board Member for Technical Development, explained, “Our new crash lab allows us to simulate potential accidents even more comprehensively and realistically, thus creating an important technical prerequisite for further improving our cars’ high level of safety in future. What’s more, the facility also meets all of the technical requirements for tests involving electric vehicles. We will continue to gradually increase the capacity for crash tests in years to come. By opening our new crash lab, we are once again taking on a little more responsibility within Volkswagen Group.”

The new crash lab is more than twice the size of the previous test centre. The crash test hall itself is over 180 m long. A separate hall is specially equipped for disarming electric vehicles. Crash test capacity is being increased to meet the demand for these vehicles and will be gradually expanded by ŠKODA AUTO over the coming years.

At the heart of the lab is an electric drive system that accelerates two vehicles with a total weight of up to 3.5 tonnes to a top speed of 65 km/h, or one weighing up to 3.5 tonnes to a top speed of 120 km/h over the entire length of the track. Other testing equipment includes the ultramodern ‘Flying Floor’ test sled, which accelerates the cars attached to it for the all-important side pole-impact test. Another piece of testing equipment is the static rollover simulator. Barriers for offset frontal impact, what is known as the small overlap test, and a barrier vehicle for the rear-impact as well as car-to-car tests compliant with the new Euro NCAP requirements cover all current test scenarios. A load-cell wall measures the forces arising during impact. In the separate hall, ŠKODA AUTO has installed equipment to flood vehicles in the event of unexpected incidents involving damaged batteries following crash tests with electric cars. ŠKODA has also launched a new project to record all data digitally. A lot of test data is already collected on tablets.

Nine adult dummies and four child dummies of various kinds act as the occupants of the test vehicles at the new centre. The dummies are positioned in the cars using an optical device, which uses static photogrammetry to check that they are seated correctly. 20 static and 30 on-board high-speed cameras – all in HD – record the results of the crash tests. For optimum image quality, ŠKODA AUTO



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makes use of LED lighting systems producing 100,000 lux for all of the test arrangements. In addition to higher-quality recordings, this technology also allows for a power saving of 40 per cent and a high level of thermal stability.

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Media image:



ŠKODA AUTO opens state-of-the-art crash lab

The test centre's advanced technical equipment is suitable for all known crash test scenarios – most notably the new Euro NCAP requirements.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO

ŠKODA AUTO

- › is this year celebrating 125 years since the company was founded during the pioneering era of the automobile in 1895, making it one of the longest-established car manufacturers in the world.
- › currently offers its customers nine passenger-car series: the CITIGO, FABIA, RAPID, SCALA, OCTAVIA and SUPERB as well as the KAMIQ, KAROQ and KODIAQ.
- › delivered 1.24 million vehicles to customers around the world in 2019.
- › 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 and India mainly through Group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine and Kazakhstan with local partners.
- › employs approximately 42,000 people globally and is active in more than 100 markets.
- › is pressing ahead with the transformation from a traditional car manufacturer into the 'Simply Clever company for the best mobility solutions' as part of the ŠKODA 2025 Strategy.