



ŠKODA
SIMPLY CLEVER

PRESS RELEASE

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ŠKODA AUTO files the most patent applications of all Czech companies in 2019

- › **Innovation:** the number of ŠKODA AUTO applications has been increasing for years
- › **Legal certainty:** patenting new ideas is part of ŠKODA AUTO's company philosophy and protects the brand's intellectual property
- › **Engineering prowess:** most of the patent applications come from ŠKODA AUTO's Technical Development and Production departments

Mladá Boleslav, 7 July 2020 – ŠKODA AUTO filed 94 patent applications last year, more than any other company in the Czech Republic. ŠKODA's number of patent applications has been continuously increasing for years, and many of the innovations may be used in the brand's models.

ŠKODA AUTO had 94 new ideas protected in 2019, more than twice as many as in 2017. After the Czech Technical University in Prague (ČVUT), ŠKODA AUTO holds second place in its home country in terms of the number of patent applications; the car manufacturer ranks first among all Czech companies.

The innovations dreamt up at ŠKODA AUTO predominantly originate in the Technical Development and Production departments. As a result of this stream of ideas, ŠKODA is continuously expanding its portfolio of patents and utility models, and consolidating its position as one of the technological leaders in the Czech Republic.

Christian Strube, ŠKODA AUTO Board Member for Technical Development, said, "The innovative strength of our employees is part of ŠKODA AUTO's DNA. With every new patent application we file, we're adding yet another chapter to ŠKODA's story as a modern and innovative car manufacturer."

By filing official patent and utility models applications, the company protects its intellectual property from unauthorised use and secures its unique selling points and existing competitive edge. In addition to technical innovations, ŠKODA also protects its brand-typical Simply Clever features. The [ŠKODA Scooter](#) – a sustainable, practical mobility solution for the last mile that can be easily folded and stored in the boot in just a few simple steps – is registered as a protected utility model, for example.

The list of protected innovations also includes carpet mats made of hollow fibre fabric, which are particularly easy to clean and on which dirt is hardly visible. ŠKODA has also obtained a utility model for illuminated seat belt buckles, which make it easier to fasten your seat belt in the dark.

In addition, the car manufacturer has also filed an application with Czech authorities for an innovative method of securing luggage and other items. Using a flexible cargo element, boxes, crates and other objects can be positioned more securely in the boot alongside luggage. It can be placed anywhere in the boot and prevents loaded items from getting damaged during a journey. If necessary, the element can be easily taken apart and attached to the boot floor using hook-and-loop fasteners.

ŠKODA has also been filing applications for new technological solutions devised for use in production. One of these is a camera system which is used to precisely align parts of the car body before welding.



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As the modern measuring system allows the body to be optimally positioned right from the start, the welding process is faster and the time required for mechanically aligning the parts is reduced. Four cameras determine the position of the car body and allow the path of the robots, i.e. the movements of the welding robots, to be quickly adjusted.

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The practical scooter is perfect for the first and last mile, i.e. the journey to and from the car. Thanks to its patented folding mechanism, it can be effortlessly stored in the ŠKODA KAMIQ and SCALA, for example, without losing any space for luggage.

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ŠKODA's patented illuminated seat belt buckles make it easier to fasten the seat belt in the dark.

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The car manufacturer has also filed an application with the Czech Patent Office for an innovative method of securing luggage and other items.

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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.