

## Encouraging collaboration: Škoda Auto hosts international semiconductor summit in Prague

- › Škoda Auto organised the international networking summit 'Collaboration for a better future' on behalf of the Volkswagen Group
- › Group representatives and senior executives from the semiconductor industry met in Prague to build on cooperation and improve supply chain resilience
- › Automotive and semiconductor industries are moving closer together

**Mladá Boleslav, 9 May 2023 – On behalf of the Volkswagen Group, Škoda Auto organised the International Semiconductor Supply Chain Summit in Prague on 4 May 2023. At the Lobkowicz Palace in Prague Castle, senior representatives of international companies and organisations exchanged views on how to organise industry-wide and interregional cooperation on the supply of semiconductors.**

### **'Collaboration for a better future'**

'Collaboration for a better future' was the motto of this year's summit at Prague Castle on 4 May 2023. International decision-makers from chip and wafer manufacturers, brokers, distributors, first tier suppliers and developers joined the meeting for in-depth discussions and new impetus. The importance of the event was underlined by the participation of Procurement Board Members of the Group brands Škoda, Volkswagen, Porsche and Audi and Group Components. Among the topics discussed were the Chip Act, the realignment of supply chains and the future role of the automotive industry.

**Karsten Schnake, Škoda Auto Board Member for Procurement and Head of the COMPASS task force** says, "The last three years, and especially the past twelve months, have shown that holistic thinking is a must and that the major challenges of our time need to be addressed collaboratively. This is the only way to ensure a successful and sustainable future. A resilient economy is a decisive factor – and this relies on semiconductors as a driver of innovation. Our summit offers decision-makers along the entire value chain a unique platform to interact closely and engage in important networking."

### **Small component – big importance**

Semiconductors are crucial to the automotive industry; they are not only fundamental to series production but they are also innovation drivers and vital for launching new products. The Covid-19 pandemic led to a shortage of semiconductors, a situation that was exacerbated by lockdowns and the associated pressures on the transport network. To resolve these difficulties, the Volkswagen Group set up an inter-brand and cross-functional

task force called COMPASS (Cross Operational Management Parts & Supply Security) at the beginning of 2022.

### **Industry-wide and interregional approach**

Summit participants heard a keynote by Karsten Schnake, in which he explained the role of cross-industry collaboration in improving planning. Another keynote by Thomas Reibe, Senior Expert from the department DG Connect at the European Commission, outlined the importance of interregional cooperation to increase resilience under the title 'Challenges and Successes of the European Chips Act'. Also on the summit's agenda was 'Start-up cooperation for imaging a new reality' by Nils Wollny, CEO and Co-Founder of the start-up holoride; guests had the opportunity to try out holoride on a test drive in the Škoda Enyaq iV. The virtual reality headset incorporates the vehicle's real-time movements into a gaming experience.

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### Media images



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From left to right: Dirk Große-Loheide, Member of the Board of Management of the Volkswagen Brand responsible for "Procurement", Chief Purchasing Officer Volkswagen Group, Member of the Extended Executive Committee and Member of the Škoda Auto Supervisory Board; Barbara Frenkel, Porsche AG Board Member for Procurement; Renate Vachenauer, Audi AG Board Member for Procurement and Karsten Schnake, Škoda Auto Board Member for Procurement and Head of the COMPASS task force

Source: Škoda Auto



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 Karsten Schnake, Škoda Auto Board Member for Procurement and Head of the COMPASS task force

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### Škoda Auto

- › is successfully steering through the new decade with the Next Level – Škoda Strategy 2030.
- › aims to be one of the five best-selling brands in Europe by 2030 with an attractive line-up in the entry-level segments and additional e-models.
- › is emerging as the leading European brand in important growth markets such as India or North Africa.
- › currently offers its customers twelve passenger-car series: the Fabia, Rapid, Scala, Octavia and Superb as well as the Kamiq, Karoq, Kodiaq, Enyaq iV, Enyaq Coupé iV, Slavia and Kushaq.
- › delivered over 731,000 vehicles to customers around the world in 2022.
- › has been a member of the Volkswagen Group for 30 years. The Volkswagen Group is one of the most successful vehicle manufacturers in the world.
- › independently manufactures and develops not only vehicles but also components such as engines and transmissions in association with the Group.
- › operates at three sites in the Czech Republic; has additional production capacity in China, Russia, Slovakia and India primarily through Group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine with a local partner.
- › employs 45,000 people globally and is active in over 100 markets.