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PRESS RELEASE

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ŠKODA AUTO's support in fighting COVID-19 met with high demand

- › A ŠKODA fleet of more than 200 vehicles made available by HoppyGo has covered more than 220,000 km since mid-March, helping over 50,000 people
- › 150 BeRider e-scooters from ŠKODA AUTO DigiLab used by healthcare professionals for more than 1,600 journeys across Prague
- › More than 240,000 respirators and protective face masks supplied

Mladá Boleslav, 30 April 2020 – ŠKODA AUTO has been providing comprehensive and unbureaucratic support in combating the spread of the coronavirus for multiple weeks. Now it's time to take stock: How has the support been received so far? And how far have the vehicles featuring the #SKODAAUTOpomaha slogan and BeRider e-scooters travelled in the process? What stage in the process is the donation of the 100 ŠKODA OCTAVIAS at? How many respirators have already been produced by ŠKODA's 3D printers? The answers are revealed below.

ŠKODA AUTO has been helping to combat the spread of the coronavirus for several weeks now. The [car manufacturer](#) is, for example, [donating 100 ŠKODA OCTAVIAS worth a total of 85 million Czech korunas to aid agencies in the Czech Republic](#). Furthermore, the brand has been keeping more than [200 HoppyGo vehicles as well as 150 BeRider electric scooters available for charities, municipalities and volunteers](#). But that's not all, the company has also been supporting the development and implementation of a 3D printing process for the production of FFP3 respirators, which offer the highest level of protection, and ŠKODA Logistics has been helping distribute face shields to general practitioners and hospitals.

Selection process to award 100 ŠKODA OCTAVIAS underway

Since 17 April, social and medical aid agencies have been able to apply for one of 100 ŠKODA OCTAVIA COMBIs with a total worth of around 85 million Czech korunas. Now, the applications will be assessed prior to handing the car keys over to the successful applicants.

Very positive feedback for vehicles made available by HoppyGo and BeRider

Since the Czech Government declared a national emergency on 12 March, a fleet of more than 200 ŠKODA vehicles has covered a total of 227,000 km across the Czech Republic. The cars have been used to help 50,900 people and have delivered more than 20,000 meals as well as essential shopping. Furthermore, they have distributed 240,000 respirators and face masks as well as disinfectants and other urgently required items. Some of the vehicles have been used by members of the urban coronavirus emergency task force.

The fleet has been supplied by ŠKODA AUTO, the Uniqway car-sharing platform as well as several ŠKODA dealerships and has then been made available by HoppyGo – a peer-to-peer car-sharing service for private individuals, developed by ŠKODA AUTO DigiLab.

Jarmila Plachá, Head of the ŠKODA AUTO DigiLab, pointed out that, "We have made use of all the experience gained so far with the HoppyGo car-sharing platform to provide fast and effective help with



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our fleet exactly where our vehicles are most needed at the time. The figures speak for themselves. The offer has been very well received so far, and we've had very positive feedback."

Dagmar Hoferková, coordinator of the ADRA Volunteer Services, added, "We greatly appreciate the support being supplied by the HoppyGo platform. The coordinators of our volunteer centres have been using the vehicles throughout the Czech Republic to provide the elderly and other people in need with food, essential shopping, protective equipment and medicinal products. The vehicles also give us more flexibility with regards to organising other tasks, and our collaboration with hospitals and social services."

The 150 BeRider e-scooters, which ŠKODA AUTO DigiLab has been providing free of charge for medical and nursing staff in Prague, have also been in demand: 250 users have covered almost 16,000 km on the 1,600 journeys made between 26 March and the end of April. ŠKODA AUTO DigiLab has also set up new rental zones in the Czech capital so that the various hospitals can be reached.

ŠKODA AUTO supports the development, production and distribution of respirators

In addition to providing vehicles, ŠKODA has also been supporting the development and production of respirators, and has been helping to distribute them to medical staff once produced. The Prototype and Model Construction department, part of ŠKODA's Technical Development division, is using its 3D printers to make components that were jointly developed by the Czech Institute of Informatics, Robotics and Cybernetics (CIIRC) and the Czech Technical University (CTU).

David Vaněk, Head of Prototype and Model Construction at ŠKODA AUTO, explained, "The Czech Technical University has chosen to work with polyamide and use multi-jet fusion technology. This printing method ensures low porosity and guarantees a homogeneous end product that also features the necessary surface properties. A smooth surface is particularly important for respirators, as it allows them to be disinfected as easily as possible."

To date, ŠKODA has supported the production of 795 respirators, and partners of the project have also contributed several hundred units. Project management is being handled by Czech 3D printing specialist 3Dees – an experienced ŠKODA partner; the Czech Ministry of Health is taking care of distribution. Many of the respirators were donated to the Klaudián hospital in Mladá Boleslav, while other units have been given to clinics in the vicinity of the ŠKODA plants in Kvasiny and Vrchlabí.

Furthermore, Prusa Research, another ŠKODA AUTO partner and leading manufacturer of 3D printers, has been producing face shields, some of which have been printed directly at ŠKODA from a single data set. To date, ŠKODA's Logistics department has delivered 20,000 of these shields to doctors.

ŠKODA also manufactures transparent face shields at its Mladá Boleslav site. For example, with the help of the Prototype and Model Construction department, the Kvasiny plant, the pilot line and the ŠKODA Academy, more than 2,500 of these have been delivered to local hospitals to date.



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Further information:

Tomáš Kotera
Head of Corporate Communications
tomas.kotera@skoda-auto.cz
T +420 326 811 773

Martin Ježek
Spokesperson for Digitalisation
martin.jezek4@skoda-auto.cz
T +420 730 865 258

Media video, infographic and images:



Video: ŠKODA AUTO's support in fighting COVID-19 met with high demand

ŠKODA's Technical Development division and other departments are now using their 3D printers to produce components for FFP3-certified respirators and face shields instead of small vehicle parts and prototypes.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



Infographic: ŠKODA AUTO's support in fighting COVID-19 met with high demand

For several weeks now, 200 vehicles from the company's car sharing fleet and those of other services have been deployed in the fight against COVID-19. ŠKODA has made the pool of vehicles available free of charge and exclusively for aid organisations, municipalities and volunteers.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



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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.