



ŠKODA
SIMPLY CLEVER

PRESS RELEASE

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ŠKODA AUTO opens new centre in Mladá Boleslav to build test vehicles and prototypes

- › Test vehicles and prototypes can now be built under one roof in the new manufacturing centre of ŠKODA AUTO's Technical Development department
- › Clever space design, virtual reality and robot stations for even greater efficiency and more agile processes

Mladá Boleslav, 14 January 2021 – ŠKODA AUTO's Technical Development department opened a new centre for the manufacture of test vehicles and prototypes at its Mladá Boleslav site. The new facility means that these special vehicles can now be built completely under one roof. The carmaker uses state-of-the-art technologies, such as robot stations and virtual reality solutions, through the entire production process.

Johannes Neft, [new ŠKODA AUTO Board Member for Technical Development since 1 January](#), said: "The use of test cars allows us to draw conclusions about numerous technical parameters at an early stage of development and make the necessary adjustments long before serial production of a new model commences. We are now taking the next step. In future, we will build 300 test vehicles and 120 prototypes per year with maximum efficiency under one roof in our new, state-of-the-art facility at the Mladá Boleslav site. We have created the ideal conditions here to develop vehicles at the highest level and that will shape the future of our brand."

In order to monitor not only individual components but also the vehicle as a whole, classic tests remain essential, despite digital simulations and models gaining more importance in the testing phase. Due to the increasingly complex and powerful electronic architecture of modern vehicles, the focus is on functional tests of electrics, electronics and assistance systems, as well as on communication between in-car computers. ŠKODA produced some of the test vehicles for the all-electric ENYAQ iV at the new facility.

David Vaněk, Head of Model and Prototype Manufacture, added: "Our new facility has three floors and houses the parts warehouse, body shop, final assembly and paint shop, all within the smallest of footprints ensuring short distances. At the same time, the facility's high degree of automation allows for more agile processes and a significant increase in production capacity for test vehicles and prototypes. Furthermore, the building features state-of-the-art virtual reality technologies as well as 168 workplaces in open-space offices and 13 meeting rooms. A large part of the complex – 14,000 m² – is used for vehicle manufacture."

The ground floor accommodates the parts warehouse including a covered yard for unloading trucks. The car bodies are built on the second floor, while the third floor contains the final assembly and the paint shop. A freight elevator is used to transport the material between floors.

Thanks to two robot stations, the proportion of automation in the body shop has increased from 15 to 45 per cent. This doubles production capacity to ten car bodies per week – while requiring 20 per cent less space. Furthermore, weight-saving designs can also be manufactured here, as ŠKODA AUTO has expanded its body shop to include an innovation centre for testing joining techniques, such as clinching, riveting, flow drill screw (FDS) fastening, laser welding and composite construction.



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Virtual reality technologies allow workstations to be preconfigured and customised, and state-of-the-art IT systems are used in logistics. Quality control will be integrated into the production process and run parallel to the respective manufacturing steps. The new facility also includes an up to 300 km/h rolling road for this purpose.

The new model and prototype production facility is also very advanced from an ecological point of view. The short distances save approximately 1,800 l of fuel per year, therefore enabling a decrease in CO₂ emissions of roughly five tonnes. The entire warehousing now being incorporated into vehicle manufacture results in further savings, reducing logistics costs by more than 150,000 euros annually.

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Media video and images:



Video: ŠKODA AUTO opens new centre in Mladá Boleslav to build test vehicles and prototypes

The video provides an overview over the new centre for the manufacture of test vehicles and prototypes at the ŠKODA AUTO headquarters in Mladá Boleslav. The new facility means that these special vehicles can now be built completely under one roof.

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Quelle: ŠKODA AUTO



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The new facility houses the body shop, final assembly, paint shop and logistics, as well as offices and meeting rooms.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



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Source: ŠKODA AUTO

ŠKODA AUTO

- › is focusing on three priorities with its 'NEXT LEVEL ŠKODA' programme for the future: expanding the model portfolio towards entry-level segments, exploring new markets for further growth in the volume segment and making tangible progress in sustainability and diversity.
- › currently offers its customers ten passenger-car series the CITIGO® iV, FABIA, RAPID, SCALA, OCTAVIA and SUPERB as well as the KAMIQ, KAROQ, KODIAQ and ENYAQ iV.
- › delivered over one million vehicles to customers around the world in 2020.
- › has been part of the Volkswagen Group for 30 years. The 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, 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 with a local partner.
- › employs approximately 42,000 people globally and is active in more than 100 markets.