



ŠKODA
SIMPLY CLEVER

PRESS RELEASE

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ŠKODA AUTO opens state-of-the-art new Central Pilot Hall at its Mladá Boleslav site

- › Ideal facility for the planning, testing and manufacture of pre-production vehicles and start of production preparation
- › An area of more than 12,000 m² for body shop and vehicle assembly, as well as a measuring centre and virtual reality studio
- › Investments made amount to approximately 20.4 million euros

Mladá Boleslav, 20 January 2021 – Today ŠKODA AUTO has put a new Central Pilot Hall into operation at its headquarters. In the development phase of new models, comprehensive analyses will be carried out here and pre-production cars manufactured. They will be subjected to extensive testing by the Technical Development and Quality Assurance departments prior to the launch of serial production. The facility houses, among other things, a body shop and an assembly shop as well as a measuring centre and a virtual reality studio. The central pilot hall is also prepared for the era of electromobility, with charging points and relevant assembly areas including options for testing electrified vehicles. Investments made amount to 20.4 million euros. ŠKODA AUTO has thus invested in its future and, following its new [centre to build test vehicles and prototypes](#), is opening yet another state-of-the-art facility to work on pre-production models.

Dr. Michael Oeljeklaus, ŠKODA AUTO Board Member for Production and Logistics, stressed: “The Pilot Hall will act as an interface between the company’s Production and Logistics, Technical Development and Quality Assurance departments in the run-up to start of production. Here, we will make the necessary preparations to ensure a smooth commencement of serial production of new models. Fitted with ultra-modern equipment, the new Central Pilot Hall offers the ideal prerequisites for carrying out complex analyses, for example, to perform necessary tests and inspections, or to optimise machines and tools before we use them in series production.”

The new central pilot hall provides the ŠKODA AUTO engineers with their own little factory. In addition to robot stations where the car bodies are joined, the new facility also houses areas for assembly and final inspection. Virtual reality devices and 3D printers are some of the tools available. The equipment and processes are designed in such a way that both vehicles with a combustion engine and partially or fully electric cars can be subjected to all the necessary tests and analyses. As soon as a model meets the stringent quality requirements, it leaves the Pilot Hall – the vehicle and process are then considered ready for serial production.

The two-storey building on the factory site is 22 m high and covers an area of 12,142 m² – equivalent to more than one-and-a-half football pitches. It offers excellent working conditions for the permanently based staff as well as for employees from other departments and visitors. In addition to rooms for meetings and training courses, there are also charging stations for all-electric vehicles. A light tunnel creates the best conditions to present the pre-production vehicles.

In order to be able to use the latest technology for the assembly of pre-production cars in the future, the facility is designed to be retrofitted with flexible robot cabins, for example, if required.



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In the 1970s, the building was initially used for the electrogalvanization of the ŠKODA 100's bumpers, and later the carmaker used the complex as a warehouse. Now that the conversion, which began in September 2019, has been completed on schedule, the space and much of the building can once again be used more effectively. The new central pilot hall also meets the highest standards in terms of energy efficiency. The exterior walls have been thoroughly thermally insulated and ŠKODA AUTO uses LED technology for the lighting of the entire building, while photovoltaic modules can also be installed.

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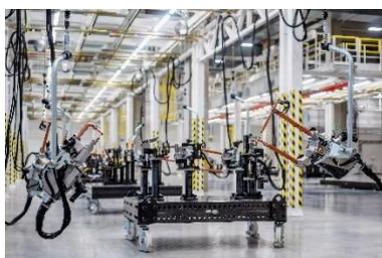


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From left to right: Head of Company Planning at ŠKODA AUTO, Jiří Drbout, Vice-Chairman of KOVO MB Trade Unions Josef Zmrhal, ŠKODA AUTO CEO Thomas Schäfer, ŠKODA AUTO Board Member for Production and Logistics Dr. Michael Oeljeklaus, Head of Launch Management Petr Kuba and Head of Quality Management Dr. Florian Weymar at the opening of the carmaker's new Central Pilot Hall at the company's headquarters in Mladá Boleslav.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



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ŠKODA AUTO

- › is focusing on three priorities with its 'NEXT LEVEL ŠKODA' program 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 belonged to 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.