
Media information

Statements on the opening of the Center of Excellence

Hans Dieter Pötsch, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Volkswagen AG

“The start of battery cell development and production here in Salzgitter is an important step. The Center of Excellence is unique in Europe in the way it brings together development, pilot production, testing, quality assurance and battery cell procurement. Battery cells are the key component for e-mobility. Volkswagen is making a decisive contribution to establishing this core technology in Germany with battery cell production and the Center of Excellence here in Salzgitter.”

Dr. Herbert Diess, Chief Executive Officer of Volkswagen AG

“The car of the future is electric. That is why Volkswagen must significantly expand its know-how in battery technology. The battery is at the heart of sustainable mobility and plays a key role in future value creation. That is why, over the next five years, we are also undertaking massive investments to amass know-how in developing and producing battery cells and entering into partnerships, thereby making our contribution to the successful transformation of Germany’s automotive industry.”

Bernd Osterloh, Chairman of the Group and General Works Council, Volkswagen AG

“Secure jobs and economic efficiency do not contradict one another, that also holds true at a time of transformation. Our Center of Excellence, the pilot line and the future battery cell factory all prove that. As employee representatives, we have always driven these issues forward. In the meantime, our colleagues’ know-how on the entire cell production cycle is worth its weight in gold for Volkswagen. Battery cells made in Salzgitter are already competitively priced. What is crucial now is intensive training and professional development to bring about the transformation for the workforce at the site. The company has a responsibility in that context.”

Hubertus Heil, Federal Minister of Labour and Social Affairs

“Thanks to its strength in research, development and industrial production, Salzgitter is excellently positioned to advance battery cell technology, one of the technologies of the future. We will support Volkswagen as it drives Germany’s standing as an industrial location forward – for example with the right training opportunities so that today’s workforce can also master the tasks of tomorrow. We will achieve this transformation together, in the interests of sustainable jobs and a modern, environmentally-compatible mobility industry in Germany.”

Stephan Weil, Minister President of Lower Saxony

“Respect and recognition for the experts at Volkswagen – to build a pilot line for battery production including battery cell manufacture in Salzgitter so quickly is a truly outstanding achievement. I am delighted and relieved that battery cells will also be researched and produced in Lower Saxony going forward. Salzgitter will be at the heart of these activities. And I would, of course, also like to see further battery cell production facilities in Lower Saxony, so I am optimistic.”

Dr. Bernd Althusmann, Minister of Economic Affairs, Lower Saxony

“Volkswagen’s decision is good for Lower Saxony and Germany because key value creation processes for future automotive production at Volkswagen and its suppliers are unchanged. This is the only way to ensure that German industry retains its position as a world leader in this technology that is so vital for 21st century mobility. Shaping a transformation process such as the transition of a global champion like Volkswagen to e-mobility based on its own resources calls for courageous decisions. All credit is due to the Volkswagen Group, in particular Dr. Diess, for that.”

Dr. Stefan Sommer, Volkswagen AG Board member for Components and Procurement

“Bringing together the development, testing and pilot production of battery cells in Salzgitter marks a further milestone in the Volkswagen Group’s comprehensive electric offensive. By pooling know-how at this site, we are making sure we drive forward our own activities to further advance the development of battery cells as a key component in electrification, develop new standards and swiftly transition them to series production.”

Thomas Schmall, CEO of Volkswagen Group Components

“We already develop and manufacture power electronics, battery systems, electric motors and charging systems, and are building up battery recycling know-how. With the integration of the battery cell business area, Volkswagen Group Components is on track to becoming a globally leading producer of e-mobility components.”

Frank Blome, Head of Battery and Energy systems

“Today’s commissioning of the pilot line is an important step on the road to building a gigafactory at the Salzgitter site. We will further deepen our knowledge of production processes within a short space of time. That is important in order to shape future developments and thus secure performance and costs as well as quality. The experience gained will also contribute to mastering the entire value chain for lithium-ion batteries – from raw materials through production to recycling.”