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Volkswagen initiates system changeover to e-mobility – Production of the ID.3 starts in Zwickau

- Ceremony with Federal Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel
 - Zwickau plant to become largest electric car factory in Europe
 - Conversion to production of electric cars strengthens automotive manufacturing base in Germany and creates strong cluster for electric vehicles
 - Dr. Herbert Diess: "With the ID.3 we are making an important contribution to the breakthrough of e-mobility."
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Wolfsburg/Zwickau – Volkswagen's electric offensive is picking up speed: Today saw the official start of series production of the ID.3*. The first car in the new generation of electric vehicles (EVs) – a white ID.3 – rolled off the assembly line watched by Federal Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel and Group CEO Dr. Herbert Diess. The Volkswagen Group plans to sell some 22 million EVs worldwide by 2028, thus helping EVs make the breakthrough. Zwickau has a key role to play in this endeavor: For the first time, a large car manufacturing plant is being entirely converted to e-mobility, with investments running at €1.2 billion. Zwickau is already scheduled to produce some 100,000 electric models next year. From 2021, up to 330,000 EVs will leave the assembly line each year, making the site the largest and most efficient EV factory in Europe and a trailblazer in the transformation of Volkswagen's global production network.



"The ID.3 will make an important contribution to the breakthrough of e-mobility. It makes clean individual mobility accessible to millions of people and is a milestone for our company on the road to becoming climate-neutral by 2050", Group CEO Herbert Diess said at the ceremony in Zwickau.

Volkswagen ID.3 at the Zwickau plant

Carbon-neutral production of the ID.3

The ID.3 is based on Volkswagen's Modular Electric Drive Toolkit (MEB). This is an all-electric platform that leverages to the full the opportunities offered by e-mobility. Consequently, the ID.3 has a long range, a very spacious interior and dynamic vehicle handling. The basic version is priced at under €30,000 in Germany. The ID.3 will be launched almost simultaneously on markets throughout Europe in summer 2020. Over 35,000 international customers have already reserved an ID.3 and paid a pre-booking deposit.

The ID.3 sets new benchmarks in sustainability: Production is carbon-neutral, which means the car is delivered to customers with a carbon-neutral footprint. Green power

Media contact Volkswagen Communications

Christoph Adomat
Head of Future Technology
Communications
Tel: +49 5361 9-86266
Christoph.Adomat@volkswagen.de

Andreas Groß
Spokesperson E-Mobility
Tel: +49 5361 9-89043
Andreas.Gross1@volkswagen.de

Carsten Krebs
Head of External Communications
Volkswagen Sachsen GmbH
Tel: +49 351 4204245
Carsten.Krebs1@volkswagen.de



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is exclusively used in energy-intensive battery cell production for the ID.3, for example. Emissions from the entire production process that are currently unavoidable are offset, among other things through investments in the "Katingan Mataya Forest Protection" climate project on the Indonesian island of Borneo.

All 8,000 employees participate in qualification program

With the phased transformation of the Zwickau factory, Volkswagen is fully converting a large car manufacturing plant to e-mobility for the first time. Some €1.2 billion is being invested in the conversion. In the final expansion stage from 2021, six MEB models from three Group brands will be built in Zwickau. Qualification measures are preparing all 8,000 employees for EV production and working with high-voltage technology. In total, the Zwickau team will have completed some 13,000 training days by the end of 2020, thus ensuring future-proof jobs at the Zwickau plant.

"The ID.3 is a high-tech car from a high-tech factory. With some 1,700 robots, driverless transport systems and fully-automated manufacturing processes, Zwickau gives a contemporary insight into the shape of forward-looking high-volume production of EVs", Thomas Ulbrich, Volkswagen Brand Board Member for E-Mobility, commented. "Ultimately, though, it is the people who build the cars who are the key to success: Our team in Saxony mastered the two-year conversion phase culminating in today's SOP with much know-how and dedication. An outstanding team achievement!"

Strong cluster for EVs in German automotive manufacturing

With its resolute entry into e-mobility, Volkswagen is making an important contribution to climate protection and thereby creating long-term perspectives for some 100,000 employees at its German plants. "Germany must drive the change and achieve proficiency throughout the e-mobility value chain. That is why we are producing EVs in Germany and have at the same time taken the decision to develop and manufacture electric motors as well as battery cells and systems. A strong cluster for EVs will emerge in Germany in the coming years", Volkswagen CEO Herbert Diess said.

Apart from manufacturing at the Zwickau factory, the Components plants in Brunswick, Kassel, Salzgitter and Wolfsburg are also involved in ID.3 production. They manufacture key components such as the electric motors or the battery systems. The car manufacturing plants in Emden and Hanover are scheduled to begin building EVs from 2022. Moreover, the Group is also cooperating with Northvolt to set up a major battery cell factory in Salzgitter.

A comprehensive information package on SOP of the ID.3 including speeches, presentations, booklet, photos and videos is available at id3.vw-newsroom.com.



* ID.3: The vehicle is not yet available for sale in Europe.

About the Volkswagen brand:

Volkswagen Passenger Cars operates in more than 150 markets worldwide and produces vehicles at more than 50 locations in 14 countries. In 2018, Volkswagen produced around 6.2 million vehicles, including bestsellers such as the Golf, Tiguan, Jetta and Passat. Volkswagen has a current workforce of 195,878 employees around the globe. Added to this are more than 10,000 dealerships with 86,000 employees. Volkswagen is forging ahead consistently with the further development of automobile production. Electric mobility, smart mobility and digital transformation of the brand are the key strategic issues for the future.
