



## Medieninformation

29 January 2021

### Statements regarding the launch of the Salzgitter battery recycling pilot plant

#### **Dr Herbert Diess, Chairman of the Board of Management of Volkswagen AG**

“Volkswagen aims to keep control of the raw material cycle for batteries at all stages. The battery and its raw materials form the foundation for the recycling economy of future mobility. Thomas Schmall organises this task for the Group worldwide. This is not only a matter of recycling the valuable battery raw materials as completely as possible, but also of using the batteries elsewhere after their first life cycle in the car. Even after a normal car life cycle of 200,000 to 300,000 km, the battery remains by far the most valuable component in the car and will likely be used in stationary storage for a number of years after the car life. Only then will it be recycled – to the greatest extent possible. This creates a sustainable value creation cycle with numerous new business opportunities that we will utilise for Volkswagen.”

#### **Stephan Weil, Minister President of Lower Saxony**

“Volkswagen has reached another milestone on its way to climate-neutral electric mobility with its battery recycling plant in Salzgitter. In the electric drive system, the battery will be the most important component in the future and also the one with the highest added value. That is why the production location for batteries and battery cells is also such a highly relevant question in terms of jobs. However, electric mobility can only make the hoped-for contribution to climate protection if it is taken to its logical conclusion. In addition to generating the electricity required from renewable energy sources, responsible handling of the used batteries has just as critical a role to play.”

#### **Thomas Schmall, Member of the Board of Management of Volkswagen AG, “Technical” Division, and Chairman of the Board of Management of Volkswagen Group Components**

“With the recycling plant, Volkswagen Group Components is implementing a further step in its sustainable end-to-end responsibility for the battery as a key component of electric mobility. We have conducted a vast amount of research and are now commencing the implementation – and play a pioneering role in the industry for a forward-looking issue with great potential for climate protection and raw material supply. Recovering these valuable metals enables new cathode material to be generated from 100 per cent transparent sources, saving CO<sub>2</sub>. A milestone not only for the Volkswagen Group, but for the entire automotive industry.”



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

“Employment effects from electric mobility are a particular issue for our component locations, as a recent Fraunhofer study again confirmed. That is why new fields of sustainable value creation are even more important. Our Group Components has already made numerous exemplary achievements such as mobile charging stations, for example. The recycling plant in Salzgitter is a flagship for the business, environmental and employment policy success. Forward-looking projects of this nature also demonstrate the effectiveness of our Innovation Fund, which the Works Council uses to provide start-up funding.”

### **Gunnar Kilian, Member of the Board of Management of Volkswagen AG, “Human Resources” and “Truck & Bus” Divisions**

“The first battery recycling plant in Salzgitter represents our path into the future. It is the confluence of technological excellence, sustainable resource usage innovative power. As such, the pilot project sends out a strong signal to the workforce that the transformation of the Volkswagen Group is continuing to take shape. On this note, I would like to encourage all colleagues to remain dedicated and fully committed to this, as they are the key driving force of the technological transformation and, therefore, our most important building block for success in the future.”

### **Georg Kell, Spokesperson for the Sustainability Council of Volkswagen AG**

“E-mobility creates the technical foundation for climate-neutral driving. However, electric mobility will only become sustainable if it also relies on future-safe solutions to handle the increasing demand for battery raw materials. This includes socially and ecologically responsible mining conditions, new battery generations with requiring lower quantities of materials such as cobalt, and a functioning recycling economy. This pilot plant represents a major step forward. It shows what is possible today with technical innovation. The intention is also to use these processes at other sites in future.”

### **Mark Möller, Head of Technical Development & E-Mobility, Volkswagen Group Components**

“We primarily focus on lithium, nickel, manganese and cobalt – the “black powder” contains precisely these particularly valuable raw materials, along with graphite. It contains essential battery cell components that can be used in the production of new cathode material. The final step of separation into pure materials is initially carried out by a partner who treats the powder with water and chemical agents to separate out the individual raw materials.”



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### **Andreas Salewsky, Plant Manager Salzgitter**

“The Volkswagen Components plant in Salzgitter is currently undergoing a transformation from a formerly pure engine plant into an e-components supplier. Opening the pilot plant for battery recycling represents another important milestone at the site. In future, we will cover the entire battery cell production value chain in Salzgitter – from raw materials to production to recycling.”

### **Dirk Windmüller, Works Council Salzgitter plant**

“With our battery recycling plant in Salzgitter, we are doing pioneering work for the entire Volkswagen Group. With this plant, Volkswagen continues to consistently pursue its goal of end-to-end responsibility. In addition, the plant will secure highly valuable jobs as part of the plant's transformation towards electric mobility. The Salzgitter plant assumes responsibility: for our job security and for the reuse of valuable and rare raw materials. The goal has to be to use this pilot plant to gain the necessary expertise to successively scale up our plant for large-scale production, and with the aim of establishing the fields of second life and second use for batteries in Salzgitter.”