

Volkswagen Sachsen GmbH Chemnitz Plant



Volkswagen



Think Blue.
Factory.



Area: 213,000 m²

Version dated:
February 2021

Production: 535,000 engines, 740,000 components (version dated: 12/2020)

Products: Petrol engines, balance shafts, integrated valve gear modules

Employees: 1,980 (incl. work-study degree students and vocational trainees, version dated: 12/2020)

Plant

The Chemnitz engine plant has a total area of 213,000 m², corresponding to 30 soccer pitches. It is located directly next to Chemnitz city park. With a workforce of some 1,950 employees (incl. work-study degree students and vocational trainees), Volkswagen in Chemnitz is one of the largest private employers in the city.

Production

The Chemnitz engine plant supplies engines to the vehicle plants as well as components to the component plants of the Volkswagen Group. In addition to modern, low-consumption direct petrol injection engines (TSI), the Chemnitz plant also manufactures engine components such as balance shafts and integrated valve gear modules. Chemnitz bears type leadership within the Group of the EA 211 (1.0 litre and 1.4 litre capacity) and EA 211 Evo (1.5 litre capacity) engines. Each ramp-up of the three engines at other Group sites worldwide is supported by experts from the Chemnitz plant. Since 1988, more than 17 million Volkswagen engines have been produced at the Chemnitz plant. Roughly 535,000 engines were produced in 2020 – reflecting the impact of the coronavirus – while 833,000 engines were produced in 2019, before the outbreak of the coronavirus. In addition, around 740,000 components were produced for the Group in 2020.

Factory manager

Uwe Thesling has been the manager of the Chemnitz plant of Volkswagen Sachsen GmbH since 1 May 2016. The trained machine fitter and graduate engineer in mechanical engineering has been working for more than 30 years at Volkswagen. Before moving to Chemnitz, he was Executive Vice-President, Production and Logistics, of Volkswagen Group China.

Environmental protection

The integration of environmental protection in all business and decision-making processes is a key element of strategic decisions at Volkswagen Sachsen GmbH. Production processes at the site are continually optimised to ensure that production is as environmentally compatible as possible and to conserve natural resources. Efforts focus on the reduction of energy consumption and carbon dioxide emissions at the Chemnitz plant. Other key elements are the reduction of production waste and industrial drinking water consumption.

At the Chemnitz engine plant, energy consumption has been significantly reduced by the consistent application of energy efficiency measures in production and the use of advanced, resource-conserving processes in new production facilities. Some 120,000 megawatt hours of energy have been saved since 2010. Major advances have also been made in the area of freshwater consumption (minus 97,000 m³) and CO₂ emissions (minus 253,000 tonnes).

Due to the central location next to the city park and proximity to a residential area, the site has a special obligation to its environment. To reduce noise, the finished engines are transported by train to avoid truck traffic. A parking guidance system for employees makes it easier to find free parking spaces at shift changes. There is also a rainwater retention basin beneath the multi-storey car park, which has a capacity of 2,450 m³ and acts as a flood defence mechanism. The Chemnitz engine plant is also home to 25 bee colonies each with 50,000 bees, which produce three types of honey each year.

The plant has received the platinum certificate of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Nachhaltiges Bauen (DGNB – the German Association of Sustainable Building) and is a member of Umweltallianz Sachsen (the Saxon Environmental Alliance). The Chemnitz engine plant has a certified environmental, energy and quality management system.

About Volkswagen Sachsen GmbH

The founding of Volkswagen Sachsen GmbH in December 1990 marked the launch of an ambitious project by Volkswagen AG to establish a competitive production facility for Volkswagen vehicles and engines in one of the most traditional regions of the German automotive industry. In addition to the temporary use of existing facilities at Zwickau and Chemnitz, which Volkswagen fully modernised, two new manufacturing facilities were built for vehicle and engine production.

The Gläserne Manufaktur (Transparent Factory) in Dresden was inaugurated in 2001. Automobilmanufaktur Dresden GmbH (Gläserne Manufaktur) was merged with Volkswagen Sachsen GmbH in 2014.

Volkswagen Sachsen GmbH now includes the Zwickau vehicle plant, the Chemnitz engine plant and the Transparent Factory in Dresden. Volkswagen Sachsen GmbH has a workforce of around 11,320 employees (including Volkswagen Training Institute). Roughly 98 per cent of the employees have industry-related vocational training, a master craftsman's certificate or a technical college or university degree. The average age is around 44 years and women currently account for 11 per cent of the workforce.

Dr Stefan Loth is Chairman of the Board of Management of Volkswagen Sachsen GmbH with responsibility for Technology and Logistics. The Management Board also includes Dirk Coers (Human Resources and Organisation) and Karen Kutzner (Finance & Controlling).