VOLKSWAGEN GROUP

Media Information

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Software-Defined Vehicles: Joint Venture RV Tech Successfully Completes Winter Testing

- **Volkswagen Group and Rivian's joint venture has reached its next milestone.**
- **Reference vehicles - Volkswagen ID.EVERY1, Audi and Scout – equipped with the SDV architecture underwent comprehensive evaluation over several months.**
- **Oliver Blume, CEO of the Volkswagen Group: "We are accelerating toward the future. With the successful completion of the winter tests, our joint venture once again demonstrates the speed and precision of its work."**

Wolfsburg, 27 March 2026 – The joint venture 'Rivian and Volkswagen Group Technologies' (RV Tech) has successfully completed the winter tests of its production-intent zonal architecture for the first generation of software-defined vehicles (SDVs). Over the course of several months of testing in Phoenix (USA) and Arjeplog (Sweden), a joint team from Volkswagen, Audi, Scout, and RV Tech validated the functionality and performance of the electronics and software – an important milestone for the joint venture's ongoing development work.

The ID.EVERY1 reference vehicle with SDV architecture and provisional bodywork during winter testing[1]. Its appearance does not represent the final production model.

Oliver Blume, CEO of the Volkswagen Group, said: "We are accelerating toward the future. With the successful completion of the winter tests, our joint venture once again demonstrates the speed and precision of its work. The close integration between the joint venture, our brands, and the Group follows a clear objective: to excite people with products and technologies that set new standards. This is how we are driving development forward across the Volkswagen Group – with the ambition to become the global automotive tech driver."

SDV architecture passes winter endurance testing

The program consisted of two phases: In Arizona, engineering teams from the brands and the joint venture worked together to finalize key software functions and prepare the reference vehicles for the winter tests in Europe. In Sweden, the systems were then subjected to stress testing under extreme weather conditions with snow and ice. The teams examined, among other things, the interaction between hardware and software for functions such as all wheel drive, traction control,

and driving performance. Over-the-air (OTA) functionality was also validated. In total, the joint venture and the brands conducted hundreds of tests and validation cycles. Individual approval drives in Germany and Sweden with the brands' development leadership marked the successful completion of the winter test program.

The results demonstrate that the SDV architecture already operates reliably under harsh winter climatic and dynamic driving conditions. In addition, this milestone establishes the foundation for the next development phases within the joint venture and individual Group brands.

The Volkswagen Group will deploy this SDV architecture in electric vehicles across markets in the Western Hemisphere. Customers can benefit from highly automated driving features and advanced infotainment solutions that can be continuously updated via over-the-air updates.

Brands strengthen software expertise for the SDV with a qualification program

In parallel, the Volkswagen Group brands are strengthening their software capabilities for the SDV. Volkswagen Passenger Cars is expected to rapidly launch a long-planned qualification program at the beginning of May where software specialists will spend several months at RV Tech locations, including Palo Alto, to deepen their knowledge of the joint venture's architecture and code. Upon returning to Wolfsburg, these specialists will serve as internal experts and bring this expertise back into their development departments as multipliers. This will help to integrate brand-specific functions more quickly into future production models. Audi and Porsche are also preparing to launch similar training programs.

[1)] Technical prototype. This vehicle is not available for sale.

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About the Volkswagen Group:

The Volkswagen Group is one of the world's leading car makers, headquartered in Wolfsburg, Germany. It operates globally, with 111 production facilities in 16 European countries and 10 countries in the Americas, Asia and Africa. With around 663,000 employees worldwide. The Group's vehicles are sold in over 150 countries.

With a comprehensive portfolio of strong global brands, leading technologies at scale, innovative ideas to tap into future profit pools and an entrepreneurial leadership team, the Volkswagen Group is committed to shaping the future of mobility through investments in electric and autonomous driving vehicles, digitalization and sustainability. The goal: As a "Global Automotive Tech Driver", to make the best automotive technologies accessible to customers worldwide - from entry-level mobility to the luxury segment.

In 2025, the total number of vehicles delivered to customers by the Group globally was 9.0 million (2024: 9.0 million). Group sales revenue in 2025 totaled EUR 321.9 billion (2024: EUR 324.7 billion). The operating result in 2025 amounted to EUR 8.9 billion (2024: EUR 19.1 billion).