

Media information

---

NO. 7/2026

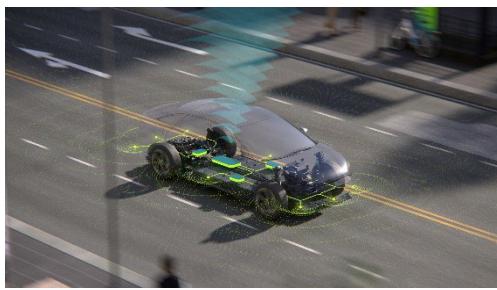
## Volkswagen Group China starts production of its first locally developed zonal electronic architecture

- Volkswagen Group China started on-schedule production of the first vehicle built on its China Electronic Architecture (CEA), the Group's first zonal electronic architecture.
- Developed, tested and produced entirely in China, the VW ID. UNYX 07 is the tech trailblazer for a new generation of Intelligent Connected Vehicles (ICV).
- The CEA is a scalable, zonal electronic architecture with high-performance central computing. Fully over-the-air updateable, it is designed for deployment across multiple vehicle platforms and all powertrain types, enabling rapid expansion of ICVs in China.
- With 18 months from concept to production, the project marks the fastest timeline Volkswagen Group has ever achieved for an all-new electronic architecture - while maintaining unchanged validation standards and top-quality levels with re-designed workflows.
- Oliver Blume, CEO Volkswagen Group: "The start of production of our first zonal electronic architecture marks another milestone in our 'In China, for China' Strategy. The Volkswagen Group delivered - fast and reliably. In just 18 months, we have for the first time built a completely new, scalable electronic architecture from development all the way to series production - maintaining the high quality and safety standards that our customers expect from Volkswagen. The China Electronic Architecture (CEA) enables software-driven innovations across all powertrain types, accelerates the expansion of our intelligent connected vehicle (ICV) portfolio in China - and represents a decisive step in our software strategy towards our ambition of becoming a global automotive tech driver."
- Ralf Brandstätter, Member of the Board of Management of Volkswagen AG responsible for China, and Chairman and CEO of Volkswagen Group China: "We have now blazed the trail for a new generation of Intelligent Connected Vehicles in China. The China Electronic Architecture allows us to bring software-driven innovation to market at competitive cost and speed, across electric vehicles, hybrids and combustion engine models. This is how we scale Intelligent Connected Vehicles in China - combining local speed with Volkswagen DNA."

[Wolfsburg/Beijing, January 28, 2026] Volkswagen Group China delivered the China Electronic Architecture (CEA) on schedule. This paves the way for the successful roll-off of its first CEA-based model, the VW ID. UNYX 07. The tech trailblazer marks Volkswagen Group's entry into full cycle Software-Defined Vehicle production in China for China. Already this year the Group will present four further vehicles from all Volkswagen brand joint ventures with the new

# VOLKSWAGEN GROUP

**architecture. With the delivery of the CEA Volkswagen confirms its full end-to-end capabilities in Software-Defined Vehicle development, from concept and engineering through validation and mass production. The architecture was developed by Volkswagen Group China Technology Company (VCTC), CARIAD China and XPENG. The vehicle is produced at the Volkswagen Anhui plant.**



Backbone for Intelligent Connected Vehicles - Volkswagen Group's first self-developed zonal electronic architecture - the CEA - is entering series production

The China Electronic Architecture is a zonal electronic and electrical architecture with high-performance central computing. Designed as scalable and continuously upgradable, Volkswagen Group China is the first automaker to deploy its zonal architecture across multiple vehicle platforms and all powertrain types - from full electric vehicles to hybrids and combustion engine cars.

## Significantly reduced development time and costs

Compared with previous vehicle generations, it reduces the number of electronic control units by around 30%, significantly streamlining system complexity. This provides a stable foundation for advanced AI cockpit functions, China-specific driver assistance systems and full-vehicle over-the-air updates.

Enabled by the new development process, overall vehicle development cycles are shortened by up to 30%. Through localized development and early supplier integration during the concept phase, development costs for new models are reduced by up to 50% in selected key projects. Agile development processes also allow rapid adjustments to evolving customer requirements, strengthening Volkswagen's competitiveness in China's Intelligent Connected Vehicle era.

Oliver Blume, CEO Volkswagen Group: "The start of production of our first zonal electronic architecture marks another milestone in our 'In China, for China' Strategy. The Volkswagen Group delivered - quickly and reliably. In just 18 months, we have for the first time built a completely new, scalable electronic architecture from development all the way to series production - maintaining the high quality and safety standards that our customers expect from Volkswagen. The China Electronic Architecture (CEA) enables software-driven innovations across all powertrain types, accelerates the expansion of our intelligent connected vehicle (ICV) portfolio in China - and represents a decisive step in our software strategy towards our ambition of becoming a global automotive tech driver."

Ralf Brandstätter, Member of the Board of Management of Volkswagen AG responsible for China, and Chairman and CEO of Volkswagen Group China: "We have now blazed the trail for a new generation of Intelligent Connected Vehicles in China. The China Electronic Architecture allows us to bring software-driven innovation to market at competitive cost and speed, across electric vehicles, hybrids and combustion engine models. This is how we scale Intelligent Connected Vehicles in China - combining local speed with Volkswagen DNA."

## One software platform for all

Beginning this year, CEA-based models will expand from A- to B-segment vehicles and will be introduced across all three Volkswagen joint ventures in China, offering customers a broad portfolio of Intelligent Connected Vehicles.

# VOLKSWAGEN GROUP

## **China speed, without compromise on quality**

Safety, durability and reliability have long defined Volkswagen's DNA, and these principles continue to be core values in the Intelligent Connected Vehicle era. While the total delivery cycle was reduced to 18 months – the fastest timeline Volkswagen Group has ever achieved for an all-new electronic architecture with specific locally developed ADAS solution – the validation cycle remains unchanged.

The approach upholds Volkswagen Group's long-standing quality standards and the trust of more than 50 million customers in China built over more than four decades.

### **Sebastian Rudolph**

Volkswagen Group Communications  
Vice President Global Group Communications  
[globalgroupcomms@volkswagen.de](mailto:globalgroupcomms@volkswagen.de) | [www.volkswagengroup.com](http://www.volkswagengroup.com)

### **Robin Aschhoff**

Volkswagen Group China  
Head of General Secretary & Group Communications  
[robin.aschhoff@volkswagen.com.cn](mailto:robin.aschhoff@volkswagen.com.cn) | [www.volkswagengroupchina.com.cn](http://www.volkswagengroupchina.com.cn)



# VOLKSWAGEN GROUP

---

## **About the Volkswagen Group:**

The Volkswagen Group is one of the world's leading car makers, headquartered in Wolfsburg, Germany. It operates globally, with 115 production facilities in 17 European countries and 10 countries in the Americas, Asia and Africa. With around 680,000 employees worldwide. The Group's vehicles are sold in over 150 countries.

With an unrivalled 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.

In 2024, the total number of vehicles delivered to customers by the Group globally was 9.0 million. (2023: 9.2 million). Group sales revenue in 2024 totalled EUR 324.6 billion (2023: EUR 322.3 billion). The operating result before special items in 2024 amounted to EUR 19.1 billion (2023: EUR 22.5 billion).

## **Volkswagen Group in China**

The Volkswagen Group is one of the first and most successful international car manufacturers in China's automobile industry and has made individual mobility possible together with its Chinese Partners. For over 40 years, the Volkswagen Group and its brands have always been pioneers of mobility in China.

The company's success story in China began in 1978, when Chinese partners first made contact with the Volkswagen Group. In 1984, SAIC Volkswagen Corporation Ltd., Volkswagen Group's first joint venture in China, was founded in Shanghai, followed by FAW-Volkswagen Corporation Ltd. in 1991. In 2017, in addition to the two existing joint ventures in China, Volkswagen (Anhui) Automotive Company Limited was established to produce new energy vehicles. Then, in 2021, the Audi FAW NEV Company was incorporated, focusing on premium electric vehicles.

The Volkswagen Group is consistently following its "In China for China" approach to enhance local development expertise. In 2023, Volkswagen Group China Technology Company (VCTC) - the Group's biggest R&D center outside Germany - was established, focusing exclusively on the development of intelligent connected vehicles (ICVs). VCTC enables the Group to fully integrate itself into China's industrial ecosystem and to customize products even faster to meet the needs of Chinese customers.

The business scope of Volkswagen Group in China includes the production, sales and services of complete vehicles and parts, such as engines and transmissions. The Group's brands — including Volkswagen, Audi, ŠKODA, JETTA, Porsche, Bentley, Lamborghini, Ducati, MAN, SCANIA — have a business presence in China through Volkswagen Group China and its subsidiaries.

In 2024, Volkswagen Group China delivered around 2.93 million vehicles to customers in the Chinese mainland and Hong Kong, together with its Chinese joint venture partners. To date, around 50 million customers in China drive cars from the Group's brands - a number unparalleled by any other automaker in the country. Following its clear "Target Picture 2030", Volkswagen Group China aims to remain the largest international OEM in China and play a leading role in the ICV era.

Volkswagen Group Website: <http://www.volkswagenag.com>

Volkswagen Group China Website: <http://www.volkswagengroupchina.com.cn/en>

Volkswagen Group China Media Service Website: <https://mediacenter.volkswagengroupchina.com.cn>

---

**THE GLOBAL AUTOMOTIVE TECH DRIVER.**

---