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## Media information

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No. 440/2019

## Volkswagen Group honors its best apprentices

- Awards for 49 young talents in 19 vocations from 20 countries
- CEO Herbert Diess: “That is a great achievement. We at Volkswagen are very proud of you.”

Wolfsburg, December 13, 2019. The Volkswagen Group today presented its “Best Apprentice Awards 2019” to its best apprentices from all over the world, honoring their outstanding performance and professional competence. The prizes for the 49 young talents with 19 vocations were presented by the Chairman of the Board of Management of Volkswagen Aktiengesellschaft, Dr. Herbert Diess, the Member of the Board of Management with responsibility for Human Resources, Gunnar Kilian, and the President of the Global Group Works Council, Bernd Osterloh.



**Row front, from right to left:** Huayun Pu, Karoline Janson, Fabian Schickinger, Kevin Enríquez Reynada, Jennifer Sznober, Markus Braun, Matteo Pancaldi, Herbert Diess, Florian Weinert, Xingyuan Ma, Celina Wilhelm, Sakhile Caroline Mthombeni, Shiyu Yin, Joao Paulo Silva Oliveira, Ronja Schönfish, Hengzhu Zhang, Shwetankk Bhalaykar  
**Row middle, from right to left:** Julen Clavería Olite, Albert Llanguas Montesinos, Jana Rebber, Tobias Bunar, Christian Deister, Simon Zoltán, CEO Audi Bram Schot, Johann Manfred Obermeier, Nella Holland, Zuzana Rábiková, Jesper Adolffsson, Alejandro Oviedo, Jan Holeyko, Hannah Schildbach, Lukas Homner, Dmitrii Pokhodenko, Maria Bayerbach  
**Row back, from right to left:** Youssef El Madi, Paweł Malec, Mateusz Nadstazik, Emil Karlsson, Redouane El Kadaoui, Niels Günther, Fabian Philippi, Moritz Jüngst, Lukáš Vaníček, Dariusz Krupiński, Gunnar Kilian, Lukas Saathoff, Bernd Osterloh, Ján Korpala, Lukas Traple, Lewis Clarke, Patrick Schiebinger, Aaron English, Kristina Marquardt

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At the award ceremony, Diess said: “You are the 49 best apprentices from 20 countries in a Group with more than 19,000 apprentices. That is a great achievement. We are very proud of you. You have completed your apprenticeship at a time when our industry is changing drastically. I would like you to play an active role in shaping this transformation. You need to argue, persuade and overcome resistance. Stand up for your future and the future of Volkswagen.”

Gunnar Kilian said: “At Volkswagen, we place considerable value on excellent training for young specialists. We want young people to firmly grasp opportunities. We support them in their efforts and offer training in about 60 vocations, with 50 dual courses of study throughout the world. In an era of rapid technological change, a solid training is more important than ever before. It is the firm foundation which you can build on to repeatedly develop new knowledge and expertise in a sustainable way.”

The 12 young women and 37 young men were honored at a ceremony held in the hall at Hafen1 at the Volkswagen facilities in Wolfsburg.

Osterloh said: “The Works Council congratulates the Volkswagen Group’s best apprentices. With their strong performance, they have taken the lead worldwide – just as our Group is doing. Nowadays, in an era of upheavals, we need motivated employees like you more than ever before. The presentation of awards to our best apprentices throughout the world is also a success for our strong vocational training and the training system of the Volkswagen Group. Vocational training develops and shapes tomorrow’s specialists. Every euro that we invest in training brings tenfold returns in other fields.”

49 award-winners had already been honored in their home countries for their commitment to their companies and for their knowledge and skills in their training vocations. 21 of the Best Apprentice Award winners will be starting a degree course to develop their knowledge and skills in greater depth. In addition, two young specialists will receive study grants. Three of the award-winners from Germany will be receiving two years of individual support in their professional family within the “talent group for young specialists”.

The apprentices honored today were:

Audi AG Brussels	Belgium	Redouane El Kadaoui
Audi AG Ingolstadt	Germany	Markus Braun
Audi AG Neckarsulm	Germany	Jan Holeyko
Audi Hungria Motor Kft.	Hungary	Simon Zoltán
Automobili Lamborghini S.p.A.	Italy	Youssef El Madi
Bentley Motors Ltd.	United Kingdom	Lewis Clarke
Porsche AG Zuffenhausen-Leipzig	Germany	Lukas Homner
Ducati Motor Holding S.p.A.	Italy	Matteo Pancaldi
FAW-Volkswagen Automotive Company, Ltd.	China	HuayunPu
Man Energy Solutions SE	Germany	Fabian Schickinger
Man Energy Solutions SE	Germany	Karoline Janson
Man Truck & Bus AG Munich	Germany	Johann Manfred Obermeier
Man Truck & Bus AG Hamburg	Germany	Jana Rebber

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Porsche Inter Auto GmbH & Co. KG	Austria	Patrick Schiebinger
Saic-Volkswagen Automotive Company Ltd. Shanghai	China	Hengzhu Zhang
Scania AB	Sweden	Emil Karlsson
Scania AB	Sweden	Jesper Adolfsson
Seat, S.A.	Spain	Albert Llanguas Montesinos
Sitech Poland	Poland	Dariusz Krupiński
Škoda Auto a.s.	Czech Republic	Lukáš Vaníček
Škoda Auto a.s.	Czech Republic	Zuzana Rábiková
Volkswagen AG Brunswick	Germany	Niels Günther
Volkswagen AG Emden	Germany	Lukas Saathoff
Volkswagen AG Kassel	Germany	Fabian Philippi
Volkswagen AG Salzgitter	Germany	Hannah Schildbach
Volkswagen AG Wolfsburg	Germany	Ronja Schönfisch
Volkswagen AG Wolfsburg	Germany	Lukas Traple
Volkswagen AG Wolfsburg	Germany	Tobias Bunar
Volkswagen AG Wolfsburg	Germany	Maria Bayerbach
Volkswagen Argentina S. A.	Argentina	Alejandro Oviedo
Volkswagen Automatic Transmission (Tianjin) Co., Ltd.	China	Shiyu Yin
VW FAW Engine (Dalian) Co., Ltd.	China	Xingyuan Ma
Volkswagen de México, S.A. de C.V.	Mexico	Kevin Enríquez Reynada
Volkswagen do Brasil Indústria de Veículos Automotores Ltda.	Brazil	Joao Paulo Silva Oliveira
Volkswagen Financial Services AG Brunswick	Germany	Nella Holland
Volkswagen Group of America, Inc.	USA	Aaron English
Volkswagen Group Retail	Germany	Moritz Jüngst
Volkswagen Group Retail	Germany	Jennifer Sznober
Volkswagen Group Rus	Russia	Dmitrii Pokhodenko
Volkswagen India Pvt. Ltd.	India	Shwetankk Bhalaykar
Volkswagen Motor Polska Sp. z o.o.	Poland	Paweł Malec
Volkswagen Navarra, S. A.	Spain	Julen Clavería Olite
Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles	Germany	Christian Deister
Volkswagen of South Africa (Pty.) Ltd.	South Africa	Sakhile Caroline Mthombeni
Volkswagen Osnabrück GmbH	Germany	Florian Weinert
Volkswagen Poznań Sp. z o.o.	Poland	Mateusz Nadstazik
Volkswagen Sachsen GmbH	Germany	Kristina Marquardt
Volkswagen Group Services	Germany	Celina Wilhelm
Volkswagen Slovakia, a.s.	Slovakia	Ján Korpala

**Note:** The latest photos from the award ceremony in Wolfsburg (from 16:00 hours, CET) are available at: [www.volkswagen-newsroom.com](http://www.volkswagen-newsroom.com)

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## About the Volkswagen Group:

The Volkswagen Group, with its headquarters in Wolfsburg, is one of the world's leading automobile manufacturers and the largest carmaker in Europe. The Group comprises twelve brands from seven European countries: Volkswagen Passenger Cars, Audi, SEAT, ŠKODA, Bentley, Bugatti, Lamborghini, Porsche, Ducati, Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles, Scania and MAN. The passenger car portfolio ranges from small cars all the way to luxury-class vehicles. Ducati offers motorcycles. In the light and heavy commercial vehicles sector, the products include ranges from pick-ups, buses and heavy trucks. Every weekday, 664,496 employees around the globe produce on average 44,567 vehicles, are involved in vehicle-related services or work in other areas of business. The Volkswagen Group sells its vehicles in 153 countries.

In 2018, the total number of vehicles supplied to customers by the Group globally was 10,8 million (2017: 10,7 million). The passenger car global market share was 12.3 per cent. In Western Europe 22.0 per cent of all new passenger cars come from the Volkswagen Group. Group sales revenue in 2018 totalled €235.8 billion (2017: €231 billion). Earnings after tax in 2017 amounted to €17.1 billion (2017: €11.6 billion).

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