
Media information

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Volkswagen Group strengthens quality assurance – Frank Welsch to lead the new unit

- **Realignment to boost customer focus in the digitally networked age of mobility**
- **As Head of Group Quality Management and Strategy, Frank Welsch will report directly to CEO Herbert Diess**
- **Thomas Ulbrich will succeed Frank Welsch as Chief Development Officer of Volkswagen Passenger Cars**
- **CEO Diess: “Through cross-brand quality management, we are responding to growing e-mobility and digitalization requirements. Following the appointment of Frank Welsch, this key function is in excellent hands.”**

Wolfsburg, January 19, 2021 – The Volkswagen Group has strengthened and simultaneously reorganized its quality assurance. To this end, Frank Welsch will become the new Head of Group Quality Management and Strategy as of February 1. In this function, he will report directly to the Chief Executive Officer of the Volkswagen Group, Herbert Diess. Thomas Ulbrich will succeed Welsch as Chief Development Officer of Volkswagen Passenger Cars.



Frank Welsch

Herbert Diess: “The traditionally high quality standards of our vehicles, combined with the digital customer experience, are now more critical to success than ever before. We are strengthening our cross-brand quality management, thus responding to the growing requirements arising from digitalization and e-mobility. In Frank Welsch, we will have an experienced vehicle expert and engineer at the helm of Group Quality Assurance. This new key function is now in excellent hands.” Among other positions, Welsch was Head of

Development at SAIC VOLKSWAGEN in China, at ŠKODA in the Czech Republic and at Volkswagen Passenger Cars in Wolfsburg. To ensure a consistent quality level, the quality assurance heads of the brands will in future also report to Welsch in a functional capacity.

“Our key aim is to have delighted customers – throughout the entire life of the vehicle. As we move toward e-mobility and digitalization, many new opportunities will arise that will allow us to get even closer to our customers, their requirements and their preferences. This will range from the charging process through digital services down to the complete networking of the vehicle. Our new structure

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lays the foundations for taking systematic advantage of these opportunities within the Group alliance,” said Frank Welsch.

Frank Welsch has previously been Chief Development Officer of Volkswagen Passenger Cars. His successor in that function will be Thomas Ulbrich, who has to date been the Member of the Board of Management of the Volkswagen Brand responsible for E-Mobility, in particular the ID.3¹ and ID.4² vehicle projects. Herbert Diess: “Thomas Ulbrich has made his mark on the transformation of the Volkswagen brand toward e-mobility, and I am pleased that, as Chief Development Officer, he will continue to be a driving force in the brand’s digitalization.”

¹) ID.3 - power consumption (NEDC) in kWh/100 km: 15.4-14.5 (combined); CO₂ emissions in g/km: 0; efficiency class: A+

²) ID.4 - power consumption (NEDC) in kWh/100 km: 16.9–16.2 (combined); CO₂ emission in g/km: 0; efficiency class: A+

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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 range from pick-ups to buses and heavy trucks. Every weekday, 671.205 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 2020, the total number of vehicles delivered to customers by the Group globally was 9.30 million (2019: 10.97 million). The passenger car global market share was 12.9 percent. Group sales revenue in 2019 totaled EUR 252.6 billion (2018: EUR 235.8 billion). Earnings after tax in the fiscal year now ended amounted to EUR 14.0 billion (2018: EUR 12.2 billion).
