
Media information

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Volkswagen uses hackathon for solutions for more transparency in the supply chain

- **The goal is to be able to better control supply chains and thus ensure compliance with human rights and environmental protection**
- **Joint event of Volkswagen, adidas, Zalando and Deutsche Bahn as part of the Berlin Startupnight**
- **About 100 participants from start-ups, social ventures and experts from the participating companies**
- **Winner of the hackathon is Open Apparel Industry**

Berlin, September 9, 2019 - For human rights and environmental protection: As part of the Berlin Startupnight on Friday, September 6th, around 100 participants from Volkswagen, adidas, Zalando and Deutscher Bahn as well as five start-ups met for a hackathon at the DRIVE! Volkswagen Group Forum. The aim was to develop digital solutions to make it easier to monitor compliance with human rights and environmental protection along deeply staggered supply chains. The goods and services involved are sourced via such supply chains with up to nine stages in various countries in Latin America, Asia and Africa.

Transparency in the supply chain is a cross-industry focal point - which particularly affects the automotive industry. The transition to e-mobility poses technological and infrastructural challenges for the Volkswagen Group: To ensure sustainable mobility, responsible procurement of raw materials has top priority, especially with cobalt, lithium, nickel, lead and rare earths.

This is why the Volkswagen Group, adidas, Zalando and Deutsche Bahn are working together with other partners from science, companies and start-ups. For one day, participants from various disciplines exchanged their expertise to develop innovative digital solutions.

On the technological side, the focus was on blockchain, information management and supply chain management. "Sustainability and supply chain transparency are inextricably linked. Digitization offers completely new opportunities here," said Marco Philippi, Head of Corporate Procurement Strategy, "And the hackathon brings both worlds, sustainability and digitization, together.

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At the end of the event, mixed groups of founders and corporate experts presented their solution strategies to a jury. The jury selected the start-up company as the winner, which presented the most innovative approach and offers the best scalability into other areas: Open Apparel Registry from Philadelphia (USA). The company will have the chance to participate in a pitch for a place in the incubator program of the Transparent Factory in Dresden next year.



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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).
