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Long range and rapid charging: the battery system is at the heart of the Volkswagen ID.3, ID.4 and ID.4 GTX

- The core components of the latest e-vehicle generation are manufactured at Volkswagen Group Components in Braunschweig, Germany
- Performance variants from 45 kWh¹ to 77 kWh^{2/3}; range of up to 549 km in the WLTP
- Rapid charging with a capacity of up to 125 kW, power for 320 km in 30 minutes

Wolfsburg, Germany – What do the fully electric compact Volkswagen ID.3, the ID.4, which was recently singled out for the "2021 World Car of the Year" award, and the recently presented high-performance model ID.4 GTX have in common? They all have cutting-edge technology on board in the shape of the high-voltage battery system from Volkswagen Group Components in Braunschweig. This makes for strong performance, long range, excellent safety and rapid charging. The demand for attractive and affordable electric vehicles based on the modular electric drive matrix (MEB) is so high that the site recently expanded production to up to 500,000 batteries a year.





The new ID.4 GTX

Structure of an MEB battery

Thomas Schmall, member of the Group Board of Management for Technology and CEO of Volkswagen Group Components: "The battery is the technical heart of the electric vehicle as it determines driving pleasure, costs, range and charging experience. For this reason, it plays a key role for ensuring sustained customer satisfaction in our Group brands."

Battery systems are therefore an integral part of making the ACCELERATE brand strategy a reality. The Volkswagen brand has announced that it will significantly increase its sales figures for electric vehicles by 2030: it intends to increase unit sales of all-electric models (BEV) in Europe to 70 percent, and to 50 percent in the US and China. The long-term aim is complete decarbonisation of the brand in terms of the ecological balance sheet by 2050. "Between now and 2025, we will introduce a new electric vehicle every year. This year it is the sporty SUV Coupé ID.5⁴; next year our new

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icon, the ID.BUZZ⁴. In 2025, we will present a model below the ID.3, which will make electric mobility available to even more customers," says Thomas Ulbrich, Volkswagen Brand managing board member for Technical Development.

How much power the growing ID. family, which is built in Europe at the Zwickau site, offers customers – and other interesting technical facts on the battery system:

Battery sizes from 45 kWh to 77 kWh. In the compact ID.3, there is a choice of three battery sizes. The compact version with 45 kWh¹ net energy content enables a range of up to 352 km on a single charge (WLTP). With 58 kWh^{5/6}, the range increases to up to 426 km (WLTP). The large battery with a net energy content of 77 kWh² offers a maximum range of 549 km (WLTP). The choice is similar for the ID.4: the E-SUV can cover up to 346 km (WLTP) with the 52 kWh⁷ battery on board, while a range of up to 522 km (WLTP) is possible with the 77 kWh³ battery. The ID.4 GTX⁸ brings dual-motor all-wheel drive with a maximum output of 220 kW⁹ to the ID. family. The battery stores 77 kWh of energy (net), enough for realistic customer ranges of up to 480 km (WLTP). It will be launched on European markets this summer.

Output from 107⁵ kW to 150 kW^{2/3/6}. The electric drive motor of an electric vehicle can only deliver as much power as the battery provides. The ID.3 with the 45 kWh battery has an output of 110 kW (150 PS)¹, while in the ID.3 with the 58 kWh battery the output is 107 kW (146 PS)⁵ or 150 kW (204 PS)⁶, depending on the customer's wishes. With the 77 kWh battery, the ID.3 always delivers an output of 150 kW (204 PS)², just like the ID.4³. The 52 kWh battery is also available for the E-SUV with two motor options, offering an output of 109 kW (148 PS)⁷ and 125 kW (170 PS)¹⁰ respectively.

Sturdy aluminium compartments for each module. The battery system of the ID. models is made up of aluminium profiles and has a scalable design. Each compartment holds a battery module comprising 24 cells with a flexible outer shell. The 45 kWh battery contains seven modules, the 52 kWh battery eight modules and the 58 kWh battery nine modules; these are located in ten compartments in each case. The 77 kWh battery is made up of twelve modules filling all twelve compartments. The large battery system is 182 cm long, while the compact version has a length of 142 cm. Both versions have a width of 145 cm and a height of 14 cm. They weigh between approximately 320 kg and around 500 kg.

Excellent safety. Depending on the battery size, up to three controllers are located in the longitudinal member of the housing which monitor the module voltage and temperature. In cooperation with the central battery management controller, these compensate for deviations in the capacity of the individual cells. The main control unit and the connection box with its fuses are mounted at the rear of the battery system: in the event of a serious accident they instantly de-energise the system.

Low installation position. The rear-wheel drive and packaging of the ID.3 and ID.4 create ideal prerequisites for sporty, safe and unproblematic driving characteristics. The battery is mounted between the axles at the lowest point of the car, ensuring a weight distribution close to the ideal figure of 50:50 in all variants. The housing is bolted to the body, thereby contributing significantly to rigidity. A strong all-round frame protects the battery system from damage in the event of a crash. This is closed off by an aluminium cover at the top, while the cooling plate and another strong aluminium cover are located underneath the cell compartment.



Rapid charging. The batteries of the ID.3 and the ID.4 offer both AC and DC charging. When using a home charging station they have a charging capacity of up to 11 kW, depending on battery size. At a high-power DC charging station, cars with a net energy content of 45 kWh or 52 kWh can be charged at up to 50 kW or optionally up to 100 kW The ID.3 with 58 kWh battery manages 100 kW as standard, while the 77 kWh battery is capable of up to 125 kW. This means the cars can be recharged with direct current for the next 320 km (according to WLTP) in around 30 minutes.

Production in Braunschweig. The battery systems are produced at the Volkswagen Group Components plant in Braunschweig, where they were also developed. Up to 500,000 MEB batteries can roll off the production line per year on an area equal to about nine football fields. Other sites for the production of battery systems are Foshan and Anting (China), to be supplemented in the future with Chattanooga (USA) and Mlada Boleslav (Czech Republic). The battery cells for the ID.3 and ID.4 in Europe are produced by the supplier using green power. This contributes to the brand's promise to supply these e-models to customers in Europe with a carbon-neutral footprint.

Salzgitter Center of Excellence. Group-wide responsibility for research, development, pilot production, testing, procurement and quality assurance of battery cells is pooled at Volkswagen Group Components in the Center of Excellence in Salzgitter. Here, various battery technologies are undergoing further development, while expertise in the development and manufacture of this key e-mobility component is also being expanded. In addition, preparations are underway for Volkswagen to start its own battery cell production in Salzgitter. Work is already being done on the next-generation solid-state battery in collaboration with partner QuantumScape.

Second life and recycling. Volkswagen guarantees a minimum battery capacity of 70% for eight years or 160,000 km. At the end of its service life – or the service life of the electric vehicle – the battery can be reused under second-life schemes such as for flexible quick-charging stations, or else it is recycled and used as a source of raw materials. A pilot plant for the recovery of valuable battery components has already been put into operation at the Volkswagen Group Components site in Salzgitter.

¹ID.3 Pure Performance (45 kWh), 110 kW/150 PS, combined power consumption in kWh/100 km: 13.8-13.1 (NEDC); CO₂ emissions (combined) in g/km: 0; efficiency class A+

 ²ID.3 Pro S (77 kWh), 150 kW/204 PS, combined power consumption in kWh/100 km: 14.1-13.5 (NEDC); combined CO₂ emissions in g/km: 0; efficiency class A+
³ID.4 Pro (77 kWh), ID.4 Life, ID.4 Business, ID.4 Family, ID.4 Tech, ID.4 Max, 150 kW/204 PS, combined power consumption in kWh/100 km: 16.9-16.2 (NEDC); combined CO₂ emissions in g/km: 0; efficiency class A+
⁴ Concept car

⁵ID.3 Pro (58 kWh), 107 kW/146 PS, combined power consumption in kWh/100 km: 14.1-13.4 (NEDC); combined CO₂ emissions in g/km: 0; efficiency class A+ ⁶ID.3 Pro Performance (58 kWh), 150 kW/204 PS, combined power consumption in kWh/100 km: 15.4-14.5 (NEDC); combined CO₂ emissions in g/km: 0; efficiency class A+



⁷ID.4 Pure (52 kWh), 109 kW/148 PS, combined power consumption in kWh/100 km: 16.3-15.5 (NEDC); combined CO₂ emissions in g/km: 0; efficiency class A+ ⁸ID.4 GTX – Power consumption in kWh/100 km (NEDC): 16.3 (combined); CO₂ emissions in g/km: 0; efficiency class: A+

⁹ Maximum electrical output 220 kW: Maximum output that can be accessed for a maximum of 30 seconds, calculated in accordance with UN GTR.21.

The amount of power available in individual driving situations depends on various factors, such as ambient temperature and the charge status, temperature and condition or physical age of the high-voltage battery. In particular, the availability of the maximum power requires the high-voltage battery to be between 23°C and 50 °C and have a charge level of > 88%. Deviations from the aforementioned parameters in particular may lead to a reduction in power, through to the complete unavailability of the maximum power.

The battery temperature can be indirectly influenced by the auxiliary air conditioner to a certain extent and the charge level can, for example, be adjusted in the vehicle. The amount of power available at a particular time is shown in the vehicle's power display. To maintain the high-voltage battery's usable capacity as effectively as possible, a battery charging target of 80% is recommended if the vehicle is used daily (to be switched to 100% prior to long-distance journeys for example).

¹⁰ ID.4 Pure, ID.4 City, ID.4 Style, (52 kWh), 125 kW / 170 PS, combined power consumption in kWh/100 km: 16.3-15.5 (NEDC); combined CO₂ emissions in g/km: 0; efficiency class A+

The Volkswagen Passenger Cars brand is present in more than 150 markets worldwide and produces vehicles at more than 30 locations in 13 countries. Volkswagen delivered around 5.3 million vehicles in 2020. These include bestsellers such as the Golf, Tiguan, Jetta or Passat as well as the fully electric successful models ID.3 and ID.4. Around 184,000 people currently work at Volkswagen worldwide. In addition, there are more than 10,000 trading companies and service partners with 86,000 employees. With its ACCELERATE strategy, Volkswagen is consistently advancing its further development into a software-oriented mobility provider.