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## Media information

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# PhD Event focuses on e-mobility and digitalization

- Volkswagen offers committed young scientists exciting research topics and top working conditions
- Some 700 specialists visit the 13<sup>th</sup> PhD Event at the MobileLifeCampus in Wolfsburg
- 345 young scientists are researching for a PhD in the Volkswagen Group

**Wolfsburg, September 12, 2018. Some 700 specialist visitors found out more about the latest research projects at the Volkswagen Group's 2018 PhD Event. The motto of this, the 13<sup>th</sup> Group-wide PhD Event, was "Researching Towards Tomorrow". A total of 345 young scientists are currently working on their doctoral theses in the Volkswagen Group, and 94 of them presented their work today at the MobileLifeCampus in Wolfsburg. The focus topics were e-mobility, digitalization, lightweight design, environmental and resource efficiency.**



Young scientists explained their work at the PhD Event. In the photo (from right): Anja Bielefeld presenting a poster about her doctoral thesis, Susanne Scholtyssek, HR Manager, Volkswagen Technical Development, Stephan Wolf, Deputy Chairman of the Group Works Council, and Josef Baumert, Board Member for Production and Logistics, Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles.

Photo: Detlev Wecke

Susanne Scholtyssek, HR Manager, Volkswagen Technical Development, said: "Volkswagen is driving forward its transformation from a carmaker to a mobility provider. Digitalization, connected vehicles and e-mobility are important future topics for us. They have long been a fact of daily life for our developers and software experts. The Group and its innovative brands offer committed young scientists exciting research topics and excellent working conditions. In turn, our PhD students make a valuable contribution to science, industry and Volkswagen with their research."

Stephan Wolf, Deputy Chairman of the Group Works Council, said: "We are living at a time when human knowledge is advancing faster than ever. Our entire industry is undergoing a revolution the like of which we have never experienced before. In this situation we need young, fresh minds that inject new ideas, new drive and new insights into

our company. That is why the Works Council is committed to enabling as many PhD students as possible to join Volkswagen on a permanent basis once they have finished their doctorate.”

The Volkswagen Group and its brands cooperate throughout the world with renowned universities and research institutes in very diverse disciplines and are supporting 345 young women and men working on their doctorates. PhD students from the Volkswagen Passenger Cars, Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles, Audi, MAN, Porsche, Scania und SEAT brands presented their work at the MobileLifeCampus in Wolfsburg. They are researching in the fields of drive technology, procurement, electronics, vehicle technology, IT & logistics, communication, economics, HR and organization, production, quality assurance, the environment, sales, marketing & trends and materials. Experienced scientists, young scientists and the professors supervising their work exchanged views on the latest research findings in 27 specialist presentations, and during tours about topics such as e-mobility, virtual vehicle development and Industry 4.0.

The presentations included work on optimizing micro-depot locations for urban parcel services from the field of the environment and economics, the analysis of the front end process and the implementation of virtual models using augmented reality from the IT & logistics focus area, enhancing energy and cost efficiency through truck platooning from the drive technology sector, compensating vehicle body motion for augmented reality head-up displays from the field of electronics, the simulation of connected electrochemical cells to optimize high-volt battery testing from the production sector, and designing a specialist career path as an alternative career model from the HR field.

### **The Volkswagen Group PhD student program**

PhD students at Volkswagen complete their doctorates within three years, cooperating closely with the universities and professors who support them as well as the relevant specialist department, which nominates a mentor to guide them during their research. There are opportunities for permanent employment at Volkswagen once the doctorate has been completed. The PhD student forum (Doktorandenkolleg) fosters networking among the young scientists and organizes activities in the form of working groups which it manages itself.

**Note:** Text and photos are available from [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, 642,292 employees around the globe produce on average 44,170 vehicles, are involved in vehicle-related services or work in other areas of business. The Volkswagen Group sells its vehicles in 153 countries.

In 2017, the total number of vehicles supplied to customers by the Group globally was 10,741 million (2016: 10,297 million). The passenger car global market share was 12.1 per cent. In Western Europe 22.0 per cent of all new passenger cars come from the Volkswagen Group. Group sales revenue in 2017 totalled €231 billion (2016: €217 billion). Earnings after tax in 2017 amounted to €11.6 billion (2016: €5.4 billion).

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