



June 27, 2018

The production process of the future: exoskeletons provide support for employees at the Bratislava plant

- External supporting structures help Volkswagen workers perform physically demanding work in vehicle assembly
- Largest long-term pilot project in Europe with 30 exoskeletons at Volkswagen's Bratislava plant

Wolfsburg/Bratislava – At its Bratislava plant, the Volkswagen brand is forging ahead with the modernization of its production processes with a project focusing on the future of work. This includes physical and behavioral ergonomic support systems which are firmly anchored in corporate strategy in connection with the topic of demographics and ergonomics. Ergonomically unfavorable workplaces are being continually reduced. Where the ergonomics of an operation cannot be improved, devices such as "exoskeletons" can provide support for production workers. These external supporting structures, which are worn somewhat like a rucksack, are currently being tested by Volkswagen in series production at its Bratislava plant. 30 workers are benefiting from a considerable reduction in physical effort in their assembly work.



Exoskeletons are currently being tested in production at the Volkswagen plant at Bratislava

Margarida Pereira, project manager in the field of demographics and ergonomics, emphasizes: "The feedback from the test workers shows that systems such as the exoskeleton significantly reduce physical effort. We want to design the production work of the future in such a way that all employees can contribute to added value over their entire working lives at the same

time as maintaining the best possible health levels."

Volkswagen has been carrying out research work in this area since 2012 and is pushing ahead with the targeted development of ergonomic strategy with exoskeletons. The first result is the Paexo support system for static overhead working. The long-standing successful cooperation between Volkswagen and Ottobock is opening up new perspectives for workplace design in connection with Industry 4.0.

Press contact

Volkswagen Communications

Fred Bärbock
Spokesperson Production and Plants
Phone: +49 5361 9-22325
fred.baerbock@volkswagen.de

Alexander Gautsche
Technology and Innovation
Phone: +49 5361 9-965803
alexander.gautsche@volkswagen.de



More under

volkswagen-media-services.com



Eric Reuting, HR Board Member of Volkswagen Slovakia, says: "Especially for workplaces with a large share of overhead working in final assembly, a physical support system which only weighs 1.9 kg and is the lightest system of its type has been developed. Currently, 30 Paexo exoskeletons are being used in a long-term pilot test in Bratislava – this is the largest evaluation project of its kind in Europe."

You will find the video here: <https://youtu.be/K6-1JIMWLAK>

About the Volkswagen brand: "We make the future real"

The Volkswagen Passenger Cars brand is present in more than 150 markets throughout the world and produces vehicles at over 50 locations in 14 countries. In 2017, Volkswagen delivered 6.23 million vehicles including bestselling models such as the Golf, Tiguan, Jetta or Passat. Currently, 198,000 people work for Volkswagen across the globe. The brand also has over 7,700 dealerships with 74,000 employees. Volkswagen is forging ahead consistently with the further development of automobile production. E-mobility, smart mobility and the digital transformation of the brand are the key strategic topics for the future.
