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## Media information

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# Volkswagen AG aims to make data centers climate-neutral by 2027

- Volkswagen AG expands data center operations at Green Mountain, Norway
- Additional capacity makes one quarter of Group's computing power run carbon-neutrally, corresponding to annual CO<sub>2</sub> savings of 10,000 tons
- Hauke Stars: "Green IT is a key topic on our ESG agenda. With data centers being the biggest contributor of carbon emissions in IT, expanding our computing capacity at Green Mountain is a strong lever to make our data center operations carbon-neutral by 2027."

**Wolfsburg, November 3, 2022 – Today, Volkswagen AG announced its goal of making its data center operations net carbon-neutral by 2027. To achieve this goal, the Group has expanded its computing capacities at Green Mountain, a Norwegian operator of CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral data centers. With this expansion, one quarter of Volkswagen's global data center operations will run carbon-neutrally. This corresponds to annual CO<sub>2</sub> savings of 10,000 tons.**



**Green Mountain's SVG1-Rennesøy data center**

Accelerating its decarbonization strategy, Volkswagen AG has set itself the ambitious goal to make its data centers net carbon-neutral by 2027. This would be three years earlier than foreseen in the European Green Deal, under which European data center operators agreed to make their data centers climate-neutral by 2030. To achieve this goal, Volkswagen has expanded its data center operations at Green Mountain, a Norwegian operator of CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral data centers. All

servers at Green Mountain run on 100% renewable electricity generated by hydropower and are cooled naturally by the adjacent fjord.

Hauke Stars, Member of the Board of Management, IT and Digitalization, explained: "Green IT is a key topic on our ESG agenda. While technology is the key driver for more efficiency, an improved customer

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experience, and new business models, IT accounts for about 3% of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions,” Hauke Stars, Member of the Board of Management, IT and Digitalization, explained. “Given the rising demand for computing power and data storage to enable Volkswagen Group’s NEW AUTO strategy, a sustainable IT roadmap with ambitious goals is paramount to systematically reduce our carbon footprint. With data centers being the biggest contributor of carbon emissions in IT, expanding our computing capacity at Green Mountain is a strong lever to make our data center operations carbon-neutral by 2027.”

The cooperation with Green Mountain started back in June 2019, when Volkswagen Group opened its data center operations at Green Mountain’s RJU1-Rjukan site in Telemark, Norway. The goal was to outsource non time-critical, high-performance computing projects like crash-test simulations to free up capacity in Volkswagen Group’s data centers at the headquarters needed for critical business applications. In total, Volkswagen Group has six data center operations worldwide, three in Wolfsburg, two in Norway, one in Singapore.

With Volkswagen AG’s latest expansion to Green Mountain’s SVG1-Rennesøy data center, one quarter of the Group’s global computing power requirements will run carbon-neutrally. This corresponds to annual CO<sub>2</sub> savings of 10,000 tons. The renewable power used for Volkswagen’s data center operation at Green Mountain would be sufficient to provide 500 households with green electricity for one year.

“We appreciate the renewed trust Volkswagen has placed in us and are pleased to support them on their journey towards full carbon-neutrality,” said Tor Kristian Gyland, CEO of Green Mountain. “Together we share the same vision of a more sustainable future.”

For the new site at SVG1-Rennesøy, Green Mountain converted a former high security NATO ammunition storage facility into a unique 22,600 m<sup>2</sup> high-security mountain hall colocation data center. The infrastructure has been designed to be expanded up to 2 x 26MW, with Volkswagen using 3MW of capacity. For the cooling, which in traditional data centers accounts for an 40% to 80% of the electricity required to power the servers, SVG1-Rennesøy takes advantage of the adjacent deep-water fjord reaching 100 meters, with a constant water temperature of 8 degrees Celsius all year round.

In Norway, 98.9 % of the electricity production is renewable, with the majority generated from hydropower. Hydropower has both a minimal carbon footprint as well as marginal ecological impact. The Norwegian government vigorously promotes the utilization of power from renewable energy sources for new branches of industry, for example, in climate-neutral data centers. Tax breaks, low energy prices and stable political conditions make Norway an ideal location for green IT.

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Volkswagen AG was the first automaker to commit to the Paris climate agreement back in 2018. By 2050, the company aims to be net CO<sub>2</sub> neutral. In its core business, the Group intends to achieve a 30% CO reduction by 2030. Today, more than 90% of Volkswagen AG's external power supply for its European manufacturing sites already comes from renewable energies.



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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. Ten brands from seven European countries belong to the Group: Volkswagen Passenger Cars, Audi, SEAT, CUPRA, ŠKODA, Bentley, Lamborghini, Porsche, Ducati and Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles. 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, 672,800 employees around the globe are involved in vehicle-related services or work in other areas of business. The Volkswagen Group sells its vehicles in 153 countries.

In 2021, the total number of vehicles delivered to customers by the Group globally was 8.9 million (2020: 9.3 million). Group sales revenue in 2021 totaled EUR 250.2 billion (2020: EUR 222.9 billion). Earnings after tax in 2021 amounted to EUR 15.4 billion (2020: EUR 8.8 billion).

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