

Volkswagen Autoeuropa Lda.



Volkswagen



Think Blue.
Factory.



Area: 2.000.000 m²

Production: 223,200 vehicles (2018)

Models: Volkswagen T-Roc, Sharan, and SEAT Alhambra

Employees: 5,804

January
2019

Plant

Volkswagen Autoeuropa in Palmela is the largest foreign industrial investment in Portugal and one of the most modern car plants in Europe. The plant/land has a total area of 2.000.000 square meters: 900.000 dedicated to the plant and 1.100.000 dedicated to the industrial park. At the moment in total 741 suppliers deliver parts to the plant, of which 19 deliver just in time and 82 trucks with production components reach the plant every day.

Production

In 2018, Volkswagen Autoeuropa produced 223,200 vehicles. The plant currently produces the Volkswagen T-Roc the new compact SUV launched in 2017, Sharan and SEAT Alhambra. With the T-Roc Palmelas's plant increased the production areas and achieved the maximum capacity of production, which is 860 cars per day.

Volkswagen Autoeuropa has a full production process, starting with stamping and ending with assembly. Six high-tech stamping lines transform metal sheets into different body parts. 745 robots get together 7872 T-Roc parts and 7123 MPV parts. Once the body is complete goes to the single line of the paint shop. This highly advanced concept is also used at the assembly, the area with the highest complexity and the highest number of employees. With the introduction of T-Roc the paint shop have created a bicolor line which allows 29 possible combinations of colors, and 600 possible combinations between roof, exterior and cockpit. Afterwards, the body will receive the components manufactured by other Volkswagen plants and suppliers from all the world to get the final product.

At the end of the production, the quality audits assures the cars according to the Group's standards, including a dynamic test on the internal test road (2 km).

Communications Volkswagen Autoeuropa Lda.

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Plant Manager

Miguel Sanches started his career at Volkswagen Autoeuropa, Portugal, in 1993, assuming various responsibilities in Industrial Engineering, Planning, Assembly and Body Shop. From 2009 to 2011, he was nominated General Manufacturing Manager.

In 2011, he undertook the task of Head of Vehicle Production at Volkswagen Mexico, in Puebla. In 2014, he became Vice President for Production and Logistics at Volkswagen de Mexico, being responsible for the plants Puebla and Silao. Since March 2016, he is Plant Manager of Volkswagen Autoeuropa.

The board of management of Volkswagen Autoeuropa also includes Mr. Jürgen Haase (Human Resources and Organization Director) and Mr. António Costa (Finance and IT Director).

Environment

Volkswagen Autoeuropa has implemented an Environmental Management System, which was initially certified in 1998. Since then, the environmental certification has been successfully renewed 5 times. In 2017, Volkswagen Autoeuropa has been certified according to the new ISO 14001:2015 standard.

The plant is characterized by a constant high level of environmental awareness. From 2011 and 2015, the plant initiated an environmental volunteering program to participate in conservation activities in the surrounding protected areas. This program mobilizes a growing number of employees and their families, and projects a positive image towards the national Nature and Forests Conservation Institute.

With the "Think Blue. Factory." initiative, the Volkswagen brand has set itself clear targets for the environmentally sustainable positioning of all its plants. By 2018, the aim is to reduce the environmental impact of all Volkswagen plants by 25 percent, based on 2010 values. Specifically, this means 25 percent less energy and water consumption, waste and emissions, per car produced.

Over the years, Palmela's plant had consistently reduced its environmental impacts. In order to achieve the final goals several measures are being investigated and implemented. In 2016, and for the first time, Volkswagen Autoeuropa has been certified according to the ISO 50001:2011 (energy management systems standard).

History

Volkswagen Autoeuropa was established as a Joint Venture of Ford (50 percent) and Volkswagen (50 percent) in 1991. Production of the VW Sharan, SEAT Alhambra and Ford Galaxy started in 1995. In 1999, Volkswagen acquired the remaining shares in Volkswagen Autoeuropa. The plant produced its millionth MPV in 2003. In 2006, Volkswagen Autoeuropa started production of the Eos. The Scirocco was assigned to Autoeuropa in 2008, the year when the plant achieved the milestone of 1,500,000 vehicles. In 2010, Volkswagen Autoeuropa started production of the new generation of Sharan and SEAT Alhambra, followed by the facelift of Eos in 2011. In 2013, the Volkswagen Autoeuropa stamping shop achieved the milestone of 10 million parts.

The production of the facelift of Scirocco started in 2014. Also in 2014, a contract was signed between AICEP (Trade & Investment Agency) and Volkswagen Autoeuropa for the investment of about €670 million between 2014 and 2018. The investment included the introduction of the Modular Transverse Matrix (MQB), which is a standard platform for all future Volkswagen models.

In 2016, Volkswagen Autoeuropa celebrated its 25th anniversary, an hallmark in the plant's history. In 2017 Autoeuropa faced the major transformation process with a new product – T-Roc, and a new working model which will lead to a significant volume growth for the next years. Due to the increase of the production, in 2018, the plant started a labor continuous model only used during the year of 1998.