



Media Information

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Volkswagen brand trims Board of Management: established processes from “New Mobility” division to be integrated into Technical Development

- The brand’s “New Mobility” and “Technical Development” divisions to be brought together as planned with effect from April 1, 2024, under the leadership of Board Member for Technical Development Kai Grünitz, Thomas Ulbrich to become Group Head of Development in China
- Efficient structures and stronger networking: the brand’s Technical Development to bundle technical project steering for future technologies and development under one roof going forward
- Volkswagen Brand Board of Management will comprise seven members in future
- CEO Schäfer: “This is the right step at the right time. New digital technologies will thus become an even more integral part of our future-oriented vehicle development. At the same time, we are making an important contribution to the brand’s performance program with more efficient structures and leaner processes.”

Wolfsburg – The Volkswagen Passenger Cars brand is trimming its Board of Management; subsequent to a pioneer phase for the “New Mobility” division, and in line with plans, the brand is integrating key elements of this division into Technical Development (TE). Led by Kai Grünitz, Volkswagen Brand Board Member for Technical Development, all development activities for future technologies and vehicle architectures (MEB and SSP) have already been bundled. The development division also steers development volumes for ICE model series (MQB). In future, responsibility for series technical project management will rest exclusively with TE. In the context of the brand’s performance program, this course of action supports the further optimization of development processes in Wolfsburg and helps shorten development times. New software development processes for electric vehicles based on the MEB were specifically tested and established in the “New Mobility” division. The transfer of these activities to the MQBevo has already taken place as planned, and the “New Mobility” division’s mission has been accomplished. Thomas Ulbrich, Volkswagen Brand Board Member for “New Mobility” since 2022, has been named the Volkswagen Group’s Head of Development in China effective April 1, 2024.



Kai Grünitz, Volkswagen Brand Board Member for Technical Development

“On behalf of the entire team I would like to thank Thomas Ulbrich for his tremendous commitment to the Volkswagen brand. He has been a driving force behind the development of our ID. electric range and put some truly pioneering work into software and digital networking and the associated processes. This work is now bearing fruit and will be transferred in full to Technical Development. I am delighted that our

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close ties will continue once he has taken up his new role in China and that he will be contributing his expertise to the development of the VW brand in the world's largest automobile market," said Thomas Schäfer, CEO of the Volkswagen brand and Member of the Board of Management of Volkswagen AG, Brand Group Core. "Going forward, Kai Grünitz will be in charge of both the "New Mobility" future topics and Technical Development. This is the right step at the right time. New digital technologies will thus become an even more integral part of our future-oriented vehicle development. At the same time, we are making an important contribution to the brand's performance program with more efficient structures and leaner processes."

Additional information

Thomas Ulbrich studied automotive engineering at Hamburg University of Applied Sciences. In 1992, the engineering graduate started his career in plant logistics at Wolfsburg, where he assumed a management role in 1995.

In 1996, he became head of logistics at FAW-Volkswagen in Changchun, China. Two years later he assumed responsibility for assembly "segment II" at the Wolfsburg plant before becoming head of plant logistics at Emden in 1999.

He was technical managing director and speaker of the management board of AUTO 5000 GmbH in Wolfsburg from 2001 to 2008. He became Board of Management Member for Production at Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles in Hannover in 2008.

Ulbrich moved to SAIC VOLKSWAGEN, China, as Technical Executive Vice President in 2010, taking charge of development as well as production and logistics at a total of five locations.

From April 2014 until January 2018, Ulbrich was responsible for Production and Logistics as Member of the Board of Management of the Volkswagen brand. He was then given responsibility for the "E-Mobility" department. He became Member of the Board of Management with responsibility for the Technical Development division of Volkswagen Passenger Cars in February 2021 and took charge of the newly-created "New Mobility" division at Volkswagen Passenger Cars on October 1, 2022.

Kai Grünitz has a degree in mechanical and industrial engineering. He has been with Volkswagen for nearly 26 years and has held various roles in development and management during his career. After serving as an executive assistant in development at ŠKODA, he moved to Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles in 2012, where he was responsible for corporate planning in the General Secretariat.

Grünitz assumed management of mechatronic chassis systems in 2014 and additional roles in commercial vehicle development followed, including chassis development in January 2017 and electrical-electronic development in August 2018.

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In his function as CTO, he worked on Autonomous Vehicle & T7 from the beginning of 2020 and, in November 2020, he became Technical Director of Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles with overall responsibility for development of the brand.

On October 1, 2022, he succeeded Thomas Ulbrich as Brand Board Member for Technical Development at Volkswagen Passenger Cars.

The Volkswagen Passenger Cars brand has a global presence and produces vehicles at 29 locations in 12 countries. In 2023, Volkswagen delivered about 4.9 million cars. These include bestsellers such as the Polo, T-Roc, T-Cross, Golf, Tiguan and Passat as well as the successful all-electric models of the ID. family. Last year, the company handed over about 394,000 all-electric vehicles to customers worldwide. About 170,000 people currently work at Volkswagen around the world. With its ACCELERATE strategy, the company is consistently driving forward its development into the most desirable brand for sustainable mobility.
