

Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles Hanover



Volkswagen



Think Blue.
Factory.



Area: 1,228,430 m²

April 2016

Production: about 176,000 vehicles (12/2015)

Models: T series, Amarok

components: foundry, heat exchangers, pressed and body parts, painted bodies for Porsche Panamera

Employees: about 14,100 (12/2015)

Management: Dr. Eckhard Scholz

Plant Manager: Udo Hitzmann

Plant

The main plant of Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles started operation in Hanover on March 8, 1956. The site has a total surface area of 1,228,430 square meters, with more than 620,000 square meters covered by production buildings and factory halls.

Udo Hitzmann was appointed manager of the Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles plant in Hanover in September 2014. Hitzmann joined Volkswagen as a production trainee in 1987. From 1993, he held various management positions in the fields of assembly, logistics and body production at Wolfsburg.

Production

The Hanover plant produces vans and pickups for the Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles brand. These include the Transporter, Caravelle, Multivan and California models of the sixth Transporter generation. Since 2009, the painted bodyshell of the Porsche Panamera has also been produced at the Hanover plant. The Amarok has also been produced in Hannover since 2010. The newly constructed press line in Hall 58 manufactures body parts for models produced at the plant and for other Group brands. In 2015, about 158,000 T6 vehicles (all model variants) and 18,000 Amaroks rolled off the production lines. Since production at Hanover started in March 1956, almost 10 million vehicles and vehicle kits have been produced at the plant. Currently, the components unit (foundry) at Hanover mainly produces cylinder heads, chassis parts and heat exchangers.

Management

Effective July 1, 2014, Dr. Eckhard Scholz became Chairman of the Board of Management of Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles in Hanover. Scholz is an engineering graduate and joined the Group in 1991. He held various management positions in Technical Development at the Volkswagen brand in Wolfsburg from 1996 to 2007, latterly as head of car body development. Scholz was appointed member of the Board of Directors of ŠKODA responsible for Technical Development in April 2007. He has been Speaker of the Brand Board of Management and board member for Technical Development since September 2012.

Corporate responsibility

Our environment and our society face growing challenges and problems. At the same time, the statutory framework is changing. These processes are having a marked impact on companies. Stakeholders expect companies to provide solutions. Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles is facing up to these challenges. We want to make an active contribution to ensuring that future generations have an intact basis for their lives and their work at the same time as safeguarding our own future viability. Sustainability is a top-management task for Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles. All departments of the company, from Procurement via Human Resources to Production and Logistics work on binding common targets with a view to making corporate responsibility a key element in decision-making for processes and products.

Environment

With its "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 make all Volkswagen plants 25 percent more environmentally compatible. Specifically, this means 25 percent lower energy and water consumption, waste volumes and emissions at all plants. The new PXL Hall commissioned in 2015 is one of the most modern and eco-friendly units of its type in Europe and forms part of Volkswagen's "Think Blue. Factory" strategy. Thanks to energy recovery and storage, the servo-mechanical press line is faster, more economical and more accurate than comparable vacuum presses.

Environmental protection is an integral part of the corporate culture of Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles, which is also confirmed by participation in local networks. For example, the Hanover plant has taken part in the "ÖKOPROFIT® -Klub Hannover", a cooperation project involving the city and region of Hanover as well as companies located there, for several years. Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles is also an active member of the "Klima-Allianz Hannover 2020" established by the city authorities and municipal utility of Hanover in 2007. Together with the other manufacturing and service companies and other organizations participating, the company aims to reduce CO2 emissions in the area by 40 percent by 2020. In cooperation with the Hanover branch office of the Volkswagen Academy, Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles has integrated environmental protection into the vocational training program for its apprentices. The overall approach of Volkswagen Academy Hanover to the integration of environmental protection into vocational training has been officially included in the German projects for the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development by the German UNESCO Commission.

Social responsibility

In order to facilitate interaction with local residents near the Hanover plant, "neighborhood dialogs" were initiated in 1998. This process of dialog is especially intensive in the case of the contact group elected from among the participants, which meets company representatives for discussions several times per year. As a result of these discussions, a large number of suggestions, wishes and proposals raised by local residents are taken up and implemented. In the meantime, representatives of schools, environmental associations and authorities have joined the discussions and laid the foundations for a relationship of trust between all concerned. The keys to the "BulliGarten " kindergarten, located near to the plant, were handed over in December 2014 and the facility for about 100 children was officially inaugurated in January 2015.

History

The decision to build a commercial vehicle plant at Hanover was taken at the beginning of 1955. On March 1, 1955, the foundation stone was laid and a year later, on March 8, 1956, the first Volkswagen Transporter rolled off the assembly line. In the course of the reorganization of the Volkswagen Group, Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles became an independent brand with headquarters at its traditional Hanover plant in 2002.

Within the Volkswagen Group, Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles is responsible for the development, production and sale of light commercial vehicles, minivans and leisure vehicles throughout the world. The model portfolio ranges from the Caddy light urban delivery van through the 6th-generation VW Bus, including the Transporter, Caravelle, Multivan and California models, the Crafter van and the Volkswagen Amarok pick-up. This highly varied range is produced at the main plant in Hanover as well as at Poznań, Poland and Pacheco, Argentina. Production in Września, Poland, is due to start in the fall of 2016.