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Volkswagen Group Research becomes Volkswagen Group Innovation

- New alignment of Group Research department and its international sites
- Anniversary: 50 years of Group Research for safe mobility
- Consistent research and innovation for autonomous mobility concepts, sustainable drive systems, augmenting and holography
- Sustainable Group Innovation activities to meet TOGETHER 2025+ Volkswagen Group strategy goals

Wolfsburg (Germany) – International network of ideas, continuous cooperation with all brands and drivers of expertise: Volkswagen Group Research has been an incubator for innovative vehicle and mobility solutions for 50 years now. It has been consistently restructured and positioned to further enhance its technological leadership. An international, comprehensive research approach lies at the core of what is now “Volkswagen Group Innovation” – with shared responsibilities at new Innovation Centers. The future-oriented alignment within the innovation fields of artificial intelligence, augmented reality, solid-state energy systems and autonomous driving drives this turnaround as a transformation initiative within the context of Volkswagen’s TOGETHER 2025+ strategy.



Dr. Axel Heinrich, Head of Volkswagen Group Innovation says: “The realignment is a decisive step towards becoming a global and innovative mobility service provider.”

“The future of mobility is in our hands because research creates expertise – and expertise creates innovation. In an effort to maintain this lead – or even enhance it – Volkswagen Group Research is fundamentally realigning its international operations”, Dr. Axel Heinrich, Head of Volkswagen Group Innovation, explains. He goes on to say that, “With the comprehensive realignment as Volkswagen Group Innovation with our Centers in Europe, Asia and the US we are adapting and bundling our innovation activities within the company. This

enhances our traditional research focus and means we can identify global as well as regional key technologies and disruptions more easily and anticipate the demands of today’s and tomorrow’s customers even faster.”

Reorganisation by mid-2020

All research and innovation activities at the Centers in California, Europe and Asia are bundled under the umbrella of Volkswagen Group Innovation. This creates synergies that provide Volkswagen Group with valuable findings relating to its development towards being a pioneering mobility provider. This international alignment is an important strategic step to also further strengthen our leading role as part of the electric mobility campaign.

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Research has been shaping the world of tomorrow for 50 years

Volkswagen's Research department was established in 1969. Research activities have been setting the course for innovative technologies at an early stage for 50 years now. It is on this basis that technical development creates specific and customer-oriented innovations. Consequently, research is not an end in itself, but the starting point for a technical lead on global markets.

Innovative force: autonomous driving, artificial intelligence, solid-state battery, fuel cell systems, augmented reality and holography

"Assist systems that have already boosted today's road safety form the basis for soon-to-follow fully autonomously driving vehicles. We are already testing fully automated driving up to level 4 in real conditions in Hamburg today with a specially equipped e-Golf¹ fleet", Dr. Axel Heinrich explains. "The Development department may now be responsible for the project, but the basic research was done and continues to be carried out by Volkswagen Group Innovation."

Investment of USD 100 million in newly established company with tech company QuantumScape

In collaboration with Californian technology company QuantumScape Volkswagen Group is paving the way for even more powerful batteries. The aim is a large-scale production of solid-state batteries by 2025. Volkswagen has invested USD 100 million in the newly established joint venture and has consequently become its biggest shareholder. "We are convinced that the longer range, shorter charging times and evident safety of solid-state batteries are the key to the next generation of electric drives", Dr. Axel Heinrich says.

In addition to solid-state batteries Volkswagen is also further developing the fuel cell in cooperation with renowned US elite university Stanford. The quantity of precious metal used is reduced to make the process more efficient and lower costs. The objective of Group Innovation is to pave the way for a large-scale production.

Research activities consistently contribute to Strategy 2025+

The focus of innovation activities is no longer just on strengthening current core research competencies. To drive forward a sustainable transformation, factors, such as global connectivity and the development of comprehensive and cross-departmental disciplines will be enhanced further. Volkswagen Group Innovation is not only researching the technical fundamentals for vehicles, but also alternative materials, for instance vegan interior equipment or the use of natural materials. Consequently, research is contributing to the TOGETHER 2025+ corporate strategy: "Shaping mobility – for generations to come".

¹⁾ e-Golf: combined NEDC power consumption: 13.8 – 12.9 kWh/100 km; combined CO₂ emissions: 0 g/km; efficiency class: A+.

About the Volkswagen brand:

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 2018, Volkswagen delivered 6,2 million vehicles including bestselling models such as the Golf, Tiguan, Jetta or Passat. Currently, 195,878 people work for Volkswagen across the globe. The brand also has over 10,000 dealerships with 86,000 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.
