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Volkswagen showcases future-oriented Group IT projects

- **Quantum computing, virtual concept car and digitalized workplace are among the topics of this year's Group IT Symposium**
- **HR and IT Board Member Dr. Blessing: "IT is one of the innovation drivers within the Group."**

Wolfsburg, May 19, 2017 – Future-oriented projects and innovations of Volkswagen Group IT were in the spotlight at the IT Symposium held in Wolfsburg on Friday, which was attended by members of the Group and Brand Boards of Management, top management and Works Council. The main focus was on IT solutions with which customer services could be made even more convenient and corporate procedures further improved. Topics included the utilization of quantum computers, the virtual concept car and the digitalized workplace at Volkswagen.

Dr. Karlheinz Blessing, Member of the Group Board of Management responsible for Human Resources and IT, said: "The Volkswagen Group is grasping the opportunities offered by digitalization. IT will play a key role within the Group. The Group must ensure stable corporate processes at the same time as being innovative and offering high performance. This is why we are further expanding our IT know-how. In future, we intend to offer our customers the best possible product and service experience. We want to provide even better working conditions for our employees, to create modern working environments in offices and factories and to manage our company even more efficiently. IT will play a key role in the success of these efforts."

Bernd Osterloh, Chairman of the Group Works Council, said: "The role of Group IT is growing and will continue to grow as the technical possibilities are developing at a breathtaking pace. Everyone was able to experience this for themselves at the symposium. Volkswagen must make sure that its employees keep up with this development. I mean that training needs to be offered. The internal training program for junior personnel initiated by the Works Council is a good example. We need to expand this offering as we have considerable potential on board at Volkswagen."

Dr. Martin Hofmann, CIO of the Volkswagen Group, described the two key tasks of IT: "We play our role in enabling the Volkswagen Group to stay agile and competitive. This is why we are forcing the pace with digital technologies. In addition, we are focusing on the modernization of our system architectures, especially migration to modern cloud-based micro-service architectures."

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Quantum computing program

At the IT Symposium, experts from Volkswagen's Munich Data Lab explained their current projects for the utilization of quantum computing. The Volkswagen Group is cooperating with the quantum computer specialist D-Wave Systems in this area. In their first research project, IT experts from Volkswagen have already successfully developed and tested a traffic flow optimization algorithm on a D-Wave quantum computer. In addition, an intelligent mobility data platform which monitors vehicle safety was presented.

Virtual concept car

The Group IT Virtual Engineering Lab demonstrated the virtual concept car, a virtual reality solution that is used in Technical Development. The software presents vehicle models, interiors and components in very high resolution, in a way which is extremely true to detail. The user can appraise the interior and exterior of the vehicle in its original size using VR goggles. In the medium term the testing and approval of concept cars – a key step in the development process for a new model – could be carried out entirely virtually.

Digitalized office workplace

Volkswagen also continues work on the development of its digitalized office workplace concept. IT representatives presented a software package for conference and meeting situations that allows the simultaneous wireless networking of several laptops, tablets, smartphones and other devices. This means that it is no longer necessary to include complex cabling when planning meeting rooms.

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