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### Volkswagen starts countdown to start of production of first I.D. model

- **100 weeks before start of production: "MEB Supplier Summit" in Wolfsburg establishes new quality of cooperation and partnership with suppliers**
- **Brand CEO Diess: "Preparations for entry to the new era of affordable e-mobility are well underway."**

Wolfsburg, December 1, 2017 – The largest product and technology offensive in the history of the Volkswagen brand is now taking shape. 100 weeks ahead of the planned start of production of the first model in the I.D. family, the brand Board of Management agreed on milestones in the run-up to production with key suppliers at the "MEB Supplier Summit". The first vehicle based on the new modular electric drive kit (MEB) is to be the compact all-electric Volkswagen I.D.<sup>1)</sup> which is to roll off the production line at the Zwickau plant in Saxony from the end of 2019.



Volkswagen I.D., I.D. BUZZ, I.D. CROZZ (from left)



Board members and top managers from suppliers at the MEB Supplier Summit

Together with his colleagues on the Board of Management and the top managers of key suppliers, Dr. Herbert Diess, the CEO of the Volkswagen brand, signed an agreement based on partnership to ensure an excellent start of production. Diess: "Our preparations for entry to the new era of affordable e-mobility are well underway. In this unique industrial project, we intend to work together to ensure that Europe is ahead in the global race to the lead in e-mobility. Zwickau will therefore be developing into the largest European e-mobility center. This will enable us to write a new chapter in the history of the automobile."

In the space of five years, the Volkswagen Group brands are to launch a total of 32 models based on the new platform throughout the world. Diess emphasized the dimensions of the project: "We are determined to take the lead. The Volkswagen brand alone will be offering more than 20 all-electric

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models by 2025 and will be investing about €6 billion in e-mobility over the next five years."

Ralf Brandstätter, Board of Management Member responsible for Procurement, explained: "To date, more than 100 suppliers have already been nominated within the framework of our electric offensive. What I find important is the fact that a new type of cooperation for our partners and Volkswagen begins today - we are involving top suppliers in development work on the I.D. project considerably more intensively and at a significantly earlier stage."

For the introduction of MEB vehicles, Volkswagen is strongly committed to the approach of value sourcing, under which suppliers contribute their ideas for better technical solutions through concept competitions in the early stages of development. Brandstätter: "The added value comes from considerably closer cooperation between equal partners for their mutual benefit."

In 2020, more than 100,000 Volkswagen vehicles are already to be built on the MEB platform, said Christian Senger, Vice President Product Line e-Mobility: "We have significantly reduced the complexity of the I.D. project and shortened the product creation process by 11 months. The new vehicle architecture, autonomous driving and the topics of networking and services will call for a working model involving close networking with all partners and suppliers. The plan for the product has been set out and we will now devote all our energy to implementing it together."

The electric architecture of the MEB is consistently oriented towards the zero-emission digital mobility of the future and has been entirely newly developed. The toolkit includes electric motors with different power ratings, flat batteries in the floorpan with innovative technologies and software features such as smart lighting and head-up displays with augmented reality which were previously only available on premium segment vehicles.

The Volkswagen I.D., I.D. BUZZ and I.D. CROZZ are part of the start-up formation which Volkswagen is introducing at short intervals from 2020 onwards to launch its electric offensive. The new vehicle generation is to be launched in Europe, China and the USA.

<sup>1)</sup> *The I.D., I.D. BUZZ and I.D. CROZZ concepts are currently not offered for sale and are therefore not subject to Directive 1999/94/EC.*

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#### **About the Volkswagen brand: "We make the future real"**

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 2016, Volkswagen produced about 5.99 million vehicles including bestselling models such as the Golf, Tiguan, Jetta or Passat. Currently, 196,000 people work for Volkswagen across the globe. The brand also has 7,700 dealerships with 74,000 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.