Volkswagen with international e-mobility marketing campaign

→ New marketing approach for electrification - starting a year before the market launch of the ID.
→ ID. Hub to be central e-mobility information pool for customers
→ eManifesto umbrella campaign to “electrify” Berlin for the DFB cup final
→ Campaign to consist of more than 600 individual assets
→ CMO Jochen Sengpiehl: “This is not a conventional market launch strategy for a product. We are concerned with communicating a new movement. Volkswagen will be making e-mobility fit for the masses.”

Wolfsburg – At the start of the pre-booking phase for its new full-electric ID. in Europe on May 8, Volkswagen is launching a broad-based international e-mobility marketing campaign. The campaign focuses especially on the ID. and is to start one year before the model’s market launch. Normally, large scale campaigns only start in connection with the launch of a model. This time, more than 600 individual communication elements are being produced for distribution on various channels. The key element and the umbrella campaign will be the “eManifesto: ID. Volkswagen, just electric”, which is to be shown on the occasion of the DFB cup final in Berlin on May 25 and will “electrify” more than 50 percent of the advertising space available in the German capital. Further elements of the campaign will be “influencer”, “barrier”, “teaser” and product films. As the heart of the campaign, the central information pool on e-mobility, the www.volkswagen.de/id website, will go live when pre-booking for the ID. starts. The highlight of the campaign will be the world premiere of the ID. at the IAA International Motor Show in Frankfurt. The media budget for the campaign in Europe will run well into the double-digit million range.

“For the fundamental transformation of Volkswagen towards e-mobility that we are currently accomplishing, we need an entirely new marketing approach,” Jochen Sengpiehl, Chief Marketing Officer of the Volkswagen brand, explains. “This is why we have not adopted a conventional market launch strategy for our ID. We are starting much earlier than usual and not only talking about the project. We are concerned with communicating a new
movement. Volkswagen is now making e-mobility fit for the masses. This will be signaled by the claim of our campaign: “Now you can.”

The campaign was developed by Volkswagen’s new lead agency for Europe, Voltage. It is to be coordinated centrally from the ID. Launch House, located in Berlin and, based on an agile, highly-integrated working model, by Volkswagen in cooperation with its lead agencies, selected media and technology companies and Volkswagen’s most important markets for electric vehicles in Europe. In addition to the Scandinavian countries such as Norway and Sweden, these mainly include Germany, the UK, France, Austria, Spain, the Netherlands and Denmark. Especially strong growth in electric vehicles is predicted for these markets which is why Volkswagen sees considerable potential for the ID. here.

The overall campaign consists of a total of five sub-campaigns. The key element and the umbrella campaign will be the eManifesto “ID. Volkswagen Just Electric”, which is to start with its first showing on TV on May 25 on the occasion of the DFB (German Football Association) cup final within the framework of Volkswagen’s partnership with DFB. With the manifesto, the brand intends to attract the attention of the general public for its development into the leading supplier of e-mobility and to promote its full-electric ID. family. The media mix will focus mainly on TV. Other channels will include posters (OOH), digital, printed media and cinemas. The eManifesto is to be used in eight EU countries (Germany, Italy, France, Spain, the UK, Sweden, Poland and Ireland).

The pre-communication phase was initiated a few weeks ago with “influencer” films; these are videos lasting about one minute in which influencers speak about sustainability topics in their lives and link them to e-mobility at Volkswagen. The four episodes are being shown solely on social media channels. Currently, three product teaser films can also be seen on these channels. In a maximum of 15 seconds each, these films highlight the smartlight, the front headlights and the silhouette of the ID. and draw attention to the upcoming pre-booking scheme for the ID.

During the pre-booking phase, “barrier” films are being launched in early May. Five of these films, up to 30 seconds long, have been developed solely for use on social and digital media. They are intended to combat common prejudices against e-mobility as regards price, charging times and range and show that e-mobility is already ready to move out of its niche into the general market. The campaign is supplemented by a seven-part series of product films which is being launched at the same time and will gradually
provide further information on the ID., heightening anticipation in advance of the IAA.

In contrast to umbrella communications with the eManifesto, the other four parts of the campaign are intended mainly to address early adopters, i.e. people and especially families who place considerable value on sustainability, are concerned with topics such as their own power supplies and are considering the purchase of an electric vehicle. The four sub-campaigns will be used throughout Europe.

All the content of the entire campaign will be combined centrally on the ID. Hub – a new content platform that is to go live at the start of ID. pre-booking. “Will I get an electric shock if I charge an electric car in the rain?”, “How difficult is it to install a wall box for my home? – Questions such as these and many more will be answered by the ID. Hub, which Volkswagen has developed at the address www.volkswagen.de/id in the format of an online magazine and which is to provide information on all topics connected with e-mobility. In future, the ID. Hub is to be integrated in the new global Volkswagen website which will be strongly data-driven and will be characterized by a high degree of personalization and responsive design.

1) Near-production concept car

About the Volkswagen brand:
Volkswagen Passenger Cars operates in more than 150 markets worldwide and produces vehicles at more than 50 locations in 14 countries. In 2018, Volkswagen produced around 6.24 million vehicles, including bestsellers such as the Golf, Tiguan, Jetta and Passat. Volkswagen has a current workforce of 195,878 employees around the globe. Added to this are more than 10,000 dealerships with 86,000 employees. Volkswagen is forging ahead consistently with the further development of automobile production. Electric mobility, smart mobility and digital transformation of the brand are the key strategic issues for the future.