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Works meeting in Wolfsburg: Brand CEO Diess thanks the Volkswagen workforce for a successful 2017

- **Realignment of the Volkswagen brand is moving forward**
 - **The achievements are to continue in 2018**
 - **Diess: "We will not change Volkswagen overnight. But we are working steadily to create a good corporate culture."**
 - **VW CEO offers a preview of the showcar I.D. Vizzion**
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Wolfsburg – During today's works meeting held at the Wolfsburg plant, Dr. Herbert Diess, the CEO of the Volkswagen brand, praised the work done by the company's approximately 200,000 employees around the world. The year of 2017 was a strenuous and difficulty one, Diess said. Nonetheless, Volkswagen was able to turn it into a very successful one, he added. The company must now remain on this course in months to come and speed up its efforts, the executive said. With 6.23 million deliveries, the brand set a sales record last year. In the process, it played a major role in the success of the entire Group as well.

Dr. Herbert Diess: "The entire workforce did exceptional work. The year demanded much from all of us. Occasionally, it even brought some of us to our very limits. At the Wolfsburg plant alone, we needed 20 special shifts in order to deliver cars on time to customers. In many ways, the Volkswagen brand is much better positioned today than it was before the diesel crisis. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to each and every employee for this achievement."

In his speech, the Volkswagen CEO noted that the work to implement the strategy TRANSFORM 2025+ was making good progress. The new models have gotten off to a very successful start, productivity is improving as well. He pointed in particular to the models being made in Wolfsburg: The Tiguan is now one of the world's 10 top-selling vehicles, and the Golf continues to set standards in terms of quality and innovation, Diess said. Turning to the company's need to transform its culture, the CEO said further efforts – as well as patience – were required. Diess: "We have to realize one thing: We will not change Volkswagen overnight. But we are working steadily to create a good corporate culture that has integrity."

Press contact

Volkswagen Communication

Christoph Adomat
Head of Corporate Communications
Tel: +49 5361 9-00000
christoph.adomat@volkswagen.de

Andreas Groß
Corporate Communications
Tel: +49 5361 9-89043
andreas.gross1@volkswagen.de



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With its model offensive, the CEO said Volkswagen was ensuring that its production operations were optimally utilized. Production of the Golf, a job currently being done by four locations, will be focused on the main plant in Wolfsburg starting in 2020. In the process, Wolfsburg will become the undisputed "capital of the Golf" once again, Diess said. The plant in Osnabrück will have its own promising model: the T-Roc convertible¹⁾. In Zwickau, Europe's largest center of expertise for e-mobility is being developed. "We are doing everything we can to secure long-range jobs at Volkswagen and to provide our locations with a good future," Diess said.

In the months ahead, the main job will be to pick up the pace of the work, he added. "We will continue our model offensive, make further gains in productivity and prepare to launch the I.D. Family," the CEO said. "Our electric cars will be the key to reaching the challenging CO₂ targets in 2020. The next few years will require each of us to give 110 percent."

During the meeting, Diess provided employees at the main plant in Wolfsburg with a preview of the showcar I.D. Vizzion¹⁾ that the brand will unveil at the Geneva Motor Show next week. The fully autonomous I.D. Vizzion exemplifies the automobile of the day after tomorrow. Diess said he thought that autonomous driving would become a reality faster than many people believe. Volkswagen must systematically prepare for this world as well, he added.

¹⁾ *The vehicle is not yet for sale. It is therefore not subject to Directive 1999/94/EC.*

About the Volkswagen brand: Making the Future Real.

The Volkswagen Passenger Cars brand is present in over 150 markets and produces vehicles at more than 50 locations in 14 countries. Volkswagen delivered 6.23 million vehicles in 2017, including bestsellers such as the Golf, Tiguan, Jetta or Passat. The company has a current workforce of 198,000 employees around the globe. Added to this are more than 7,700 dealers with 74,000 employees. Volkswagen consistently pursues the enhancement of automotive construction. Electric mobility, smart mobility and digital transformation of the brand are the key strategic topics for the future.
