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## INDIA 2.0 Project: ŠKODA and Volkswagen Group India open new Technology Center in Pune

- › 250 new jobs created for the targeted development of local skills
- › Volkswagen Group and ŠKODA AUTO invest around 250 million euros in research and development for INDIA 2.0
- › ŠKODA AUTO is responsible for developing the MQB platform A0 IN and the Volkswagen Group's model campaign in India
- › 95% of vehicle components manufactured in India to ensure maximum market proximity

**Mladá Boleslav/Pune, 19 January 2019 – ŠKODA AUTO and Volkswagen have today opened a new Technology Center in Pune, India. The opening ceremony was attended by Czech Prime Minister Andrej Babiš and other government officials. On behalf of the Volkswagen Group, ŠKODA is leading the INDIA 2.0 project, which sets out the Volkswagen Group's model campaign on the Indian market. At the new Technology Center, 250 engineers will be developing vehicles tailored to the needs of customers in the subcontinent. To ensure maximum market proximity, ŠKODA AUTO will achieve radical localization of 95 percent, meaning that almost all vehicle components will be made in India.**

Andrej Babiš, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic, and other members of his government travelled to Pune for the opening ceremony of the new Technology Center. The delegation was received by Christian Strube, ŠKODA AUTO Board Member for Technical Development and Bohdan Wojnar, ŠKODA AUTO Board Member for HR as well as Gurpratap Boparai, Managing Director of Skoda Auto India Private Ltd. and, since 1 January 2019, also Managing Director of Volkswagen India Private Limited (VWIPL).

Christian Strube, ŠKODA AUTO Board Member for Technical Development says: "By opening the Technology Center, we underline our determination to make the INDIA 2.0 project a success. India has excellent universities and highly qualified staff; this state-of-the-art facility will help us to unlock that huge potential – especially with regard to design and development. Local development is the key to success."

Andrej Babiš, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic, said at the opening ceremony: "I am delighted that ŠKODA AUTO is expanding its presence and involvement in India with such significant investments and promising projects. The fact that ŠKODA is creating great opportunities for the high potential here in India demonstrates how long-term the brand's strategy is."

The Technology Center in Chakan, around 30 kilometres north of Pune, represents the first major step in implementing the INDIA 2.0 project. ŠKODA AUTO and the Volkswagen Group are jointly investing 250 million euros in research and development projects in India; most of the technical development is to be carried out locally. The Indian engineers will be responsible for project management, electronics, infotainment, body design, interior, chassis and complete vehicle.

Gurpratap Boparai, Managing Director of Skoda Auto India Private Ltd and, since 1 January 2019, also Managing Director of Volkswagen India Private Limited (VWIPL), emphasizes: "The Technology Center will lay the foundation for the development of products that are specially designed for Indian



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market. We expect to roll out the first products, for both the ŠKODA as well Volkswagen brands, by 2020-21; starting with a mid-sized SUV based on MQB A0 IN platform. A model campaign, led by ŠKODA, will follow. I am convinced that we can use all the strengths of ŠKODA to the great benefit of the entire Volkswagen Group."

Approximately 250 engineers will be working at the new Technology Center. Their activities will focus on developing the subcompact platform MQB A0 IN. 95% of the vehicle components for the radically localized MQB A0 platform will be manufactured locally. The vehicles developed in India will meet the same core standards for safety, quality and design that the Volkswagen Group represents worldwide. At the same time, both ŠKODA and Volkswagen will be launching models with their own typical characteristics on the market. All of the planned models will meet the stricter safety and emission targets that will come into force in India in 2020 and beyond, which will even allow them to be exported to other emerging economies.

In July 2018, the Volkswagen Group confirmed a EUR 1 billion investment in the INDIA 2.0 project, which will primarily be used in developing ŠKODA AUTO and Volkswagen vehicles for the Indian market. The first of these models will be a mid-size SUV in the A0 segment, which will be unveiled in 2020.

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## Media images:



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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



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ŠKODA AUTO Board Member for Technical Development Christian Strube, at the opening ceremony of the new Technology Center in Pune, India.

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Gurpratap Singh Boparai, Managing Director of Skoda Auto India Private Ltd and Volkswagen India Private Limited at the opening ceremony of the new Technology Center in Pune, India.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO

### ŠKODA AUTO

- › was founded during the pioneering days of the automobile in 1895, making it one of the longest-established automobile companies in the world.
- › currently offers its customers nine passenger-car series: the CITIGO, FABIA, RAPID, SCALA, OCTAVIA, KAROQ, KODIAQ, as well as the KAMIQ (in China) and the SUPERB.
- › delivered more than 1.25 million vehicles to customers around the world in 2018.
- › has belonged to Volkswagen Group since 1991. The Volkswagen Group is one of the most successful vehicle manufacturers in the world. In association with the Group, ŠKODA AUTO independently develops and manufactures vehicles, as well as components such as engines and transmissions.
- › operates at three locations in the Czech Republic; manufactures in China, Russia, Slovakia, Algeria and India mainly through Group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine and Kazakhstan with local partners.
- › employs over 35,000 people globally and is active in more than 100 markets.
- › is pressing ahead with the transformation from a traditional car manufacturer to the 'Simply Clever company for the best mobility solutions' as part of the ŠKODA 2025 Strategy.