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PRESS RELEASE

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ŠKODA AUTO Vrchlábí plant launches automated ordering and supply of parts for CNC processing lines

- › Internet of Things (IoT) technologies enable further automation at the high-tech Vrchlábí site
- › CNC processing lines automatically order parts, supplied by automatic robots that report back for duty with their load carriers
- › Automation of component ordering and supply is yet another step forward in the implementation of Industry 4.0 at the state-of-the-art Vrchlábí factory

Mladá Boleslav / Vrchlábí, 13 July 2020 – ŠKODA AUTO has taken yet another step forward in implementing Industry 4.0 principles into manufacturing at its Vrchlábí component plant: new parts for the CNC processing lines are ordered automatically. They are then transported to the CNC machines by robots guided by Internet of Things (IoT) sensor technology. By combining the automated ordering and supply of components, ŠKODA AUTO is consistently pressing ahead with the digitalisation of production in Vrchlábí.

Christian Bleiel, Head of Component Production at ŠKODA AUTO, said, “By taking this new automation step, Vrchlábí is continuing to strengthen its position as one of the most state-of-the-art production facilities in the industry. The collaboration between man and machine is a future-oriented concept that we are consistently pursuing and that will further increase the productivity of this high-tech site.”

Parts are now automatically supplied to the CNC processing lines in production. In the warehouse, logistics employees place the required components on a load carrier. Guided by IoT sensor technology, an automatic transport robot then picks up the carrier and takes it to one of the CNC lines. On its return journey, the robot takes an empty load carrier with it and automatically reports back to the parts warehouse.

Due to the use of IoT technologies, the process allows for an automated, continuous supply of parts to where they are needed – further increasing manufacturing productivity. What’s more, this also increases safety at ŠKODA AUTO: logisticians are no longer required to enter production areas because all components are transported to the CNC lines automatically. Thanks to this system, the CNC machines are able to be supplied with more than 50,000 parts per day. And the costs of this automated process are expected to be covered in less than three years.

In 2012, ŠKODA AUTO comprehensively modernised its Vrchlábí site and converted it into an advanced component plant within just 18 months. In 2015, Vrchlábí was named ‘Factory of the Year’ for its rapid transformation and dynamic development. Today, the facility plays a key strategic role in ŠKODA’s component production and [is one of the most modern sites within Volkswagen Group](#). In recent years, ŠKODA AUTO has introduced numerous [Industry 4.0](#) technologies and systematically developed Vrchlábí into a high-tech location. In 2018, for example, the manufacturer started to [transport parts between its metrology centre and CNC processing machines using an automatic robot for the first time](#).

The [component plant in Vrchlábí is set to be the manufacturer’s entirely CO₂-neutral production site before the end of this year still](#). By far the greatest carbon dioxide savings were achieved by switching



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to using renewable energies. This reduced CO₂ emissions from an initial 45,000 tonnes per year to currently only 3,000 tonnes.

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- › is this year celebrating 125 years since the company was founded during the pioneering era of the automobile in 1895, making it one of the longest-established car manufacturers in the world.
- › currently offers its customers nine passenger-car series: the CITIGO, FABIA, RAPID, SCALA, OCTAVIA and SUPERB as well as the KAMIQ, KAROQ and KODIAQ.
- › delivered 1.24 million vehicles to customers around the world in 2019.
- › has been part of Volkswagen Group since 1991. 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 and India mainly through Group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine and Kazakhstan with local partners.
- › employs approximately 42,000 people globally and is active in more than 100 markets.
- › is pressing ahead with the transformation from a traditional car manufacturer into the 'Simply Clever company for the best mobility solutions' as part of the ŠKODA 2025 Strategy.