3D printing process at ŠKODA AUTO receives award from the Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic

ŠKODA AUTO uses 3D printing to manufacture components, spare parts and tools
Additive process reduces the effort and increases flexibility in logistics and warehousing
The ‘More flexible with 3D print farms’ project was recognised by the Czech Republic’s Confederation of Industry as one of the most innovative Industry 4.0 applications
As part of the ‘FORCE – Future Factory’ initiative, ŠKODA AUTO is fully focusing on digitalisation and technologies from the field of Industry 4.0

Mladá Boleslav, 13 December 2021 – ŠKODA AUTO is employing 3D printing for the production of components, spare parts and tools. The Czech car manufacturer is making its production and logistics more flexible and efficient by using what is known as 3D print farms. The Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic (Svaz průmyslu a dopravy České republiky) recognised the ‘More flexible with 3D print farms’ project, considering it one of the five most innovative Industry 4.0 applications from the past year in the country.

Michael Oeljeklaus, ŠKODA AUTO Board Member for Production and Logistics, emphasises, “At ŠKODA AUTO, we use 3D printing to manufacture components and tools faster, more efficiently and more cost-effectively and make targeted use of technologies from Industry 4.0. This is how we are implementing our FORCE programme for the Future Factory and pushing ahead with digitalising our production sites. I am delighted that our project has been recognised as one of the five most innovative approaches in the area of Industry 4.0 in the Czech Republic.”

The benefits of 3D printing across the business
ŠKODA AUTO uses 3D printing, for example, in prototype production in its Pilot Hall. Plastic 3D printing is used, in particular, in the maintenance departments in vehicle production. The carmaker also employs the technology in Central Technical Service, for the production of tools and spare parts and for the testing of new materials. Furthermore, the technology is used for the production of one-off items and small series.

High degree of flexibility: adaptable parts and reduced lead times
Currently, there are fifty 3D printers in ŠKODA AUTO’s Production and Logistics division, enabling the carmaker to apply the additive process. These are linked by a dedicated network for a working group responsible for plastic 3D printing. The largest 3D print farm, a group of ten units, is located in the body shop at the carmaker’s main plant in Mladá Boleslav. The technology makes it possible to flexibly produce the necessary tools or to carry out repairs at short notice. This means the lead time for the tools and spare parts required is significantly shorter and there is no need to keep any stock. The printed parts are added to a database, allowing them to be reproduced or adapted at any time.
Versatile technology
In early April 2020, the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic showed just how versatile 3D printing technology could be: in Technical Development, the carmaker’s own Academy and in Production at the Mladá Boleslav and Kvasiny sites, ŠKODA AUTO manufactured 1,400 protective shields for its own workforce as well as staff of various aid organisations within just two months.

Digitalisation is an integral part of the company’s NEXT LEVEL – ŠKODA STRATEGY 2030
ŠKODA AUTO is fully exploiting the use of Industry 4.0 technologies and, in this context, the possibilities 3D printing has to offer. The consistent further digitalisation of internal procedures and processes across the entire company is one of the cornerstones of the NEXT LEVEL – ŠKODA STRATEGY 2030.

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Video and media image:

Video: 3D printing process at ŠKODA AUTO receives award from the Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic
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Source: ŠKODA AUTO

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ŠKODA AUTO was recognised with the ‘Industry 4.0 Award 2021’ by the Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic (Svaz průmyslu a dopravy České republiky) for its ‘More flexible with 3D print farms’ project.

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ŠKODA AUTO
› is successfully steering through the new decade with the NEXT LEVEL – ŠKODA STRATEGY 2030.
› aims to be one of the five bestselling brands in Europe by 2030 with an attractive line-up in the entry-level segments and additional e-models.
› is emerging as the leading European brand in India, Russia and North Africa.
› currently offers its customers ten passenger-car series: the FABIA, RAPID, SCALA, OCTAVIA and SUPERB as well as the KAMIQ, KAROQ, KODIAQ, ENYAQ iV and KUSHAQ.
› delivered over one million vehicles to customers around the world in 2020.
› has been a member of the Volkswagen Group for 30 years. The Volkswagen Group is one of the most successful vehicle manufacturers in the world.
› independently manufactures and develops not only vehicles but also components such as engines and transmissions in association with the Group.
› operates at three sites in the Czech Republic; manufactures in China, Russia, Slovakia and India primarily through Group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine with a local partner.
› employs more than 43,000 people globally and is active in over 100 markets.