

## Škoda L&K 130: Student Car No. 10 celebrates 130 years of Škoda and company's links to cycling heritage

- › 28 Vocational School students transform a Škoda Superb Combi into a support vehicle for bicycle races
- › Extensive body modifications create a pick-up-like and expandable loading area for transporting spare racing bikes and include a sliding right rear door
- › The name L&K 130 and the colour scheme hark back to the earliest days of the company founded by Václav Laurin and Václav Klement in 1895
- › First Student Car to be based on the Superb model and the first to feature a plug-in hybrid powertrain

**Mladá Boleslav, 20 June 2025 – The tenth Škoda Student Car sees 28 trainees writing another chapter in the history of the Škoda Academy in Mladá Boleslav. The Škoda L&K 130 and its special colour scheme pay homage to company founders Václav Laurin and Václav Klement, who started by building bicycles 130 years ago. The one-off model is the first Student Car to be based on the Škoda Superb Combi model. With a pick-up-like loading area and many clever ideas, it is designed as a support vehicle for professional bicycle races.**

**Maren Gräf, Škoda Auto Board Member for People & Culture, says:** “The tenth Student Car continues a proud and long-standing tradition at the Škoda Academy. This high-profile project is a key part of our vocational training and a strong expression of our commitment to nurturing young talent. Year after year, spectacular one-off models like the Škoda L&K 130 highlight the creativity, skill, and curiosity of our students. The Student Car project brings learning to life – giving students the chance to apply their knowledge in a hands-on, practical setting. It offers valuable insight into the inner workings of our company and encourages collaboration across departments. This close cooperation is a true win-win: students gain practical experience, confidence, and a strong network for their future careers, while Škoda Auto benefits from the fresh ideas and energy of passionate, motivated young professionals.”

### **Paying tribute to Škoda Auto's roots and its early days as a bicycle manufacturer**

The end of the school year at the Škoda Vocational School is traditionally marked by the creation of a Student Car. This year, 28 students transformed a Škoda Superb Combi into a support vehicle for cycling races. The name Škoda L&K 130 and its special colour scheme pay homage to Škoda Auto's 130-year history, which began in 1895 with the production of bicycles. Later, company founders Václav Laurin and Václav Klement also began designing and manufacturing motorbikes and cars under the L&K brand name. Škoda Auto still

maintains a deep connection to bicycles and cycle racing today, as a long-standing supporter of major international cycling events, including the Tour de France. The Škoda L&K 130 will also be on show this summer at the 112th edition of the Tour de France taking place from 5 to 27 July 2025.

#### **First Student Car to be based on the Škoda Superb, and the first plug-in hybrid**

With the support of their teachers and experts from various departments, the trainees invested more than 2,000 working hours in the planning, development and production of the Škoda L&K 130. It is the first Student Car to be based on the Superb Combi and the first to feature a plug-in hybrid drive. Thanks to its electric range, it is well suited for use as a support vehicle during bike races. When running in all-electric mode, it uses a high-voltage battery with a gross capacity of 25.7 kWh. Moreover, it offers generous space, which makes the Škoda L&K 130 the ideal support vehicle for professional cycling races. The students transformed the estate car into a pick-up for this purpose. The vehicle now features a new rear window behind the rear seats separating the interior from the open loading area. It comes with a new, integrated bike carrier mechanism for transporting and quickly providing spare bikes.

#### **Cycling enthusiasts right from the start**

The tenth Škoda Student Car highlights the Laurin & Klement heritage and the origins of the Škoda brand, which is celebrating its 130th anniversary this year. In 1895, cycling enthusiasts Václav Laurin and Václav Klement, a mechanic and a bookseller, started developing and manufacturing bicycles under the Slavia name. The company grew quickly, and in 1899 they presented their first motorbike, before the first Laurin & Klement automobile rolled out of the production hall in 1905. However, the enthusiasm for cycling has always remained part of the brand's DNA and is today underlined by the company's support of numerous major international cycling races. Škoda Auto is the official main partner of the Tour de France and the Tour de France Femmes avec Zwift and will continue in this role until 2028. Its collaboration with event organisers A.S.O. and Unipublic covers a total of 20 international, prestigious cycling races for men and women, including the La Vuelta Tour of Spain and the Belgian and French one-day classics La Flèche Wallonne, Liège-Bastogne-Liège and Paris-Roubaix. Moreover, the Czech car manufacturer's commitment to cycling is underscored by the Škoda "We Love Cycling" platform ([www.welovecycling.com](http://www.welovecycling.com)).

#### **Inspired by the company's L&K era**

The name of the tenth Škoda Student Car highlights the long heritage of Škoda Auto. The classic gold, red and black Laurin & Klement logo, which can be found on the bonnet, hubcaps and steering wheel of the Škoda L&K 130, pays homage to the first cars made in Mladá Boleslav in 1905. The exterior and interior designs also feature large areas coloured gold, red and black. In addition to the paintwork, there is also a backlit grille mask with LEDs that can assume any colour within the RGB spectrum. The final design was selected from dozens of sketches produced by students.

**Pick-up with sliding right rear door**

In order to turn the body of the Škoda Superb Combi into a pick-up with a spacious passenger cabin and a functional, slide-out loading area, the students made various modifications. They cut off the estate car's roof behind the C-pillars, reinforced the remaining parts of the passenger cabin, modified the B- and C-pillars and shortened the roof rails. The students also designed a new rear wall for the passenger compartment complete with a rear window positioned behind the second row of seats. The right rear door is equipped with a completely new lever sliding mechanism, which the students designed in close co-operation with experts from the company's development department. When the door is opened, it does not interfere with the track – as the door does not swing outwards towards the track, it can be opened safely at any moment, even with cyclists approaching and overtaking the support vehicle.

**Electrically extendable cargo bed with two standard bike racks**

The original luggage compartment has been replaced by a new, low-slung cargo bed. At the touch of a button, this can be extended rearwards together with the new tailgate, using a unique rack-and-pinion mechanism. This makes it easy to unload a spare bike for a cyclist during a race if required. Two standard bike racks from the Škoda Genuine Accessories range are installed on the platform. When the platform is retracted along with the tailgate, the carriers with the bikes tilt upwards at an angle of 35 degrees, so the vehicle has the same length as the original Škoda Superb Combi. A roof rack provides space for a third bicycle. The plug-in hybrid powertrain – a first for a Škoda Student Car – has been adopted unchanged from the Škoda Superb Combi iV. The 110 kW (150 hp) 1.5 TSI petrol engine and an electric motor combine to develop a system output of 150 kW (204 hp). A high-voltage battery with a gross capacity of 25.7 kWh enables a sufficient electric range to make the vehicle well suited for the purpose of a bike race support car.

**Interior tailored to the needs of a professional cycling team**

As with the exterior, the interior of the Škoda L&K 130 is dominated by the classic L&K colours of red, white, gold and black on the seats, door panels and dashboard, and the materials used are recyclable. A "130 years" logo is embroidered into the covers of the front sports seats. To perfectly meet the needs of a professional cycling team, the students have integrated numerous other features into the vehicle. An additional display on the passenger side of the dashboard shows data required to support the riders. Thanks to a permanent internet connection, this data is always up to date. A radio is installed for communication within the team. Instead of the left-hand rear seat, a large cool box holding water bottles has been fitted. The 12-volt battery has found its place behind the rear seats. A large storage net under the cabin's roof lining serves to hold small items such as energy bars or bandages. The service technician positioned on the right-hand rear seat also has their own display on the back of the front passenger seat. The students have produced numerous new equipment details using 3D printing technology. For example, the brackets for the storage net under the roof come from the 3D printer, as do the logos.

**Top 10 – the history of the Škoda Student Cars**

Ever since the launch of the Škoda Vocational School's flagship project in the 2013/14 school year, students have planned, developed and built spectacular Student Cars on an annual basis. The only two breaks were caused by the Covid-19 pandemic in 2021 and the remodelling of the Škoda Academy workshops in 2024.

- Škoda Citijet (2014) – the first Student Car from Mladá Boleslav, an open-top model based on the Škoda Citigo.
- Škoda Funstar (2015) – a playful and original pick-up based on the Škoda Fabia.
- Škoda Atero (2016) – an emotional coupé version of the Rapid Spaceback.
- Škoda Element (2017) – the first electric Student Car, preceding the Škoda Citigo<sup>e</sup> iV electric production model by two years.
- Škoda Sunroq (2018) – a cool SUV convertible created on the basis of the Škoda Karoq.
- Škoda Mountiaq (2019) – a spectacular pick-up concept based on the large Škoda Kodiaq SUV.
- Škoda Slavia (2020) – an exciting spider based on the Škoda Scala, recalling the company's founding 125 years earlier and the name of its first bicycle.
- Škoda Afriq (2022) – a Kamiq crossover model turned into a 4×4 rally car, marking the project's first collaboration with Škoda Motorsport.
- Škoda Roadiaq (2023) – an all-electric, multifunctional mobile office camper for digital nomads, based on the Škoda Enyaq.

**A tradition of first-class education at the Škoda Vocational School**

The tradition of first-class professional education and support at Škoda's headquarters in Mladá Boleslav goes back almost 100 years. Škoda founded this training school back in 1927. It has been a private Škoda Auto facility since 1991 and is now part of the Škoda Academy, which opened in 2013. Having started with 58 students in its first year, it has seen over 24,000 graduates pass through its doors to date. By the 2024/25 school year, enrolment had grown to more than 750 students. The Škoda Vocational School offers three-year and four-year training courses: the three-year courses end with a final examination and a Certificate of Apprenticeship, the four-year courses with a high-school diploma. Many graduates then continue their education in post-secondary studies or at university, or they join Škoda Auto directly. The company offers every graduate employment. The Škoda Vocational School's main focus is on mechanical and electrical engineering, with a special emphasis on future-oriented technologies. A total of 16 technical training courses are currently available, 13 in the form of full-time studies and 3 in the form of follow-up daily studies. At present, the most popular courses are those leading to an e-Car Mechanic or IT Mechatronics qualification. The curriculum is constantly updated in collaboration with the company's departments in order to optimally meet the needs of both the trainees and the car manufacturer.

**Martin Slabihoudek, Head of the Škoda Auto Vocational School, says:** “With our comprehensively modernised classrooms and workshops at the Škoda Vocational School, we offer our students and the company’s employees the best possible conditions to advance their careers for years to come. Thanks to the Student Car project, the participants can put their acquired knowledge into practice and systematically hone their skills. This gives them an excellent overview of the entire process of creating a new car – from the first sketches to final assembly. And every year, we are amazed and proud of the new creative designs and clever ideas that our trainees bring to life in this flagship project.”

### **Investment in the Škoda Academy**

From 2013 to 2024, Škoda Auto invested more than 457 million Czech crowns (around 18.2 million euros) in the modernisation of training and technical facilities at the Škoda Academy, with the support of the KOVO trade union. These monies also led to the expansion of the training opportunities at the Škoda Auto Secondary Vocational School of Engineering and will thus help further improve the skills of the workforce. The measures also included remodelling the workshops the trainees then used to produce the Škoda L&K 130. As part of the refurbishments, newly designed classrooms were created in the dedicated Student Car workshop, focusing on electric mobility and digitalisation.

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### **Škoda Auto**

- › is successfully steering through the new decade with the Next Level Škoda Strategy;
- › aims to become one of the top three best-selling brands in Europe by the end of the decade with attractive offers in entry-level segments and additional electric models;
- › effectively exploits the potential in important growth markets such as India, North Africa, Vietnam and the ASEAN region;
- › It currently offers customers 12 passenger car model ranges: Fabia, Scala, Octavia, Superb, Kamiq, Karoq, Kodiaq, Elroq, Enyaq, Slavia, Kylaq and Kushaq;
- › in 2024, it delivered more than 926,000 vehicles to customers worldwide;
- › has been part of the Volkswagen Group, one of the world's most successful car manufacturers, for more than 30 years;
- › is part of Brand Group CORE, an organisational merger of the Volkswagen Group's volume brands, with the aim of achieving joint growth and significantly increasing the overall efficiency of all five volume brands;
- › As a Volkswagen Group brand, it independently develops and produces components such as MEB battery systems, engines and transmissions for other Group brands;
- › operates three production plants in the Czech Republic; has production capacities in China, Slovakia and India, mostly through group partnerships, as well as in Vietnam and Ukraine in cooperation with a local partner;
- › It employs around 40,000 people worldwide and is active in almost 100 markets.