

Circularity: Following circular economy principles for sustainable vehicle production

- › The Vision O prioritizes recyclability by featuring a mono-material interior design to simplify recycling processes
- › Integration of leather waste and plant-based components without compromising on quality or aesthetics

Mladá Boleslav, September 8, 2025 – The name Vision O is derived from the concept of circularity. It stands for designing, producing, using, and ultimately recycling the car in a sustainable way to minimize the environmental impact throughout the entire lifecycle – especially by using mono-materials that are easier to recycle and process. This approach also integrates functionality and user experience – demonstrating how circular materials can be used without compromising on quality or aesthetics. Škoda Auto thinks beyond the life cycle of materials, implementing waste-free production methods through careful management of processes and the reuse of by-products, which are recycled and repurposed. Recycled materials come from various sources, including post-production waste and recycled components. For example, Rec PES primarily uses plastic bottles that are collected, cleaned, shredded into small pieces, melted down, and spun into yarns, which are then woven into fabric. This process helps reduce waste and the need for new raw materials, ensuring that nothing is wasted and every material finds its purpose.

Karsten Schnake, Member of the Board of Management for Procurement, stated: "For Škoda, it is a clear target to use recyclable materials and environmentally friendly products as much as possible. Using recycled and recyclable materials in the Vision O is important, and it's part of a wider effort. We carefully consider how components are sourced, manufactured, packed and transported, as well as people's working conditions and the environment. This is central to responsible supply-chain management – it's about the materials we buy and how they're made and moved. With the Vision O, we've worked on building a closed-loop system that minimizes environmental impact."

A 3D printed headrest redefining comfort and sustainability

The bespoke headrest was designed deriving from Škoda's mono-material approach, having one material which combines function, comfort, and design. The Ultrasint TPU is flexible, durable, and recyclable, derived from zero-waste production. Škoda aimed for a mono-material headrest, which means decreasing the number of components into one material fulfilling all the requirements for the final product. The biggest requirement was comfort and durability. The final result is a 3D printed structure in a honeycomb shape that gradually opens up from a solid bottom to an airy structure towards the top. The open structure is responsive to pressure, soft as a pillow.

Custom made seats, tailored for fit and environmental responsibility

The seat materials used for the Vision O were tailor-made to fit its unique seat shape. Škoda Auto's design department created the material as a flat knit with different structures knitted into a single piece. This design ensures an optimal fit, enhances durability, and fully supports a range of seating configurations. The circular aspects include the use of 100% recycled polyester (rec PES) and a mono-material approach.

Plant-based materials and recycled leather

Large parts of the interior, such as the middle console, handrests, dashboard, or steering wheel, are covered with Ultrasuede NU, a material that contains 65% plant-based components. This material has a transparent coating with mica pearl pigments, providing a subtle colour shift. The entire floor of the Vision O is veneered with NABORE, a material made from upcycled leather waste. This innovative use of recycled materials transforms production scraps into a durable and visually appealing interior feature.

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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 by offering its customers the best of both worlds through a range of attractive BEV, hybrid & ICE products;
- effectively exploits the potential in important growth markets such as India, Vietnam and the ASEAN region;
- currently offers customers 12 passenger car model ranges: Fabia, Scala, Octavia, Superb, Kamiq, Karoq, Kodiaq, Elroq, Enyaq, Slavia, Kylaq and Kushaq;
- delivered more than 926,000 vehicles to customers worldwide in 2024;
- 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;
- independently develops and produces components such as MEB battery systems, engines and transmissions for other Volkswagen 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;
- employs around 40,000 people worldwide and is active in almost 100 markets.