

Press release
20 February 2019

BMW Group Plant Dingolfing to create up to 2,000 secure jobs in e-mobility

Plant director announces expansion of e-drive production – Preparations for series production of fully electric and highly automated BMW iNEXT – Model initiative in the luxury segment with new BMW 7 Series and new BMW 8 Series variants

Dingolfing. The mobility of tomorrow is being turned into reality to a large extent in Dingolfing. Ilka Horstmeier, the new director of the BMW Group's plant in Lower Bavaria, is convinced of this: "We want to, and will, emerge as a winner in our industry's technological transformation. And we will continue to pioneer future topics such as e-mobility and autonomous driving." In this context, the plant director announced that "we will increase the number of Dingolfing-based jobs in the production of e-drive components several times over in the next few years – to a total of up to 2,000."

The increasing demand for e-mobility, which benefits Dingolfing in particular, is also noticeable at the vehicle plant. In 2018, the share of electrified models more than doubled year-on-year, to around 9% of the total production output. Almost 30,000 plug-in hybrids of the BMW 5 Series and 7 Series rolled off the assembly lines at the Dingolfing plant. A total of around 330,000 vehicles were built at the location in 2018, including, as a first, the new BMW 8 Series' coupe and convertible variants. Thanks to these figures, Dingolfing was once again the BMW Group's largest European production site in terms of production output.

In the coming years, the BMW iNEXT, scheduled for production at the Dingolfing plant from 2021 on, will be among the major milestones on the road to future mobility. Extensive investments are already being made all around the plant to prepare for the model. Ilka Horstmeier: "The BMW iNEXT brings together all key automotive technologies: it is fully electric, fully connected and highly automated. It is the technology flagship for the future of the entire BMW Group. And we are proud that this car of the future will be built here at our plant."

The BMW iNEXT paves the way for a number of innovations: Starting in 2021, it will be the first all-electric BMW to be produced in Dingolfing, where it will be assembled flexibly and efficiently on a single line together with plug-in hybrid and combustion-engine models. According to Horstmeier, the new addition would

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also allow the location to play a pioneering role in the future-oriented field of autonomous driving.

Ilka Horstmeier has been director of the BMW Group's largest European vehicle plant since November 2018. Commenting on her area of responsibility, she stated: "Our industry is experiencing exciting times, and the Dingolfing plant is definitely the most exciting place you can be right now. This is where corporate strategy becomes reality."

The plant in Dingolfing is a showcase for many future topics in automotive engineering, including the BMW Group's center of excellence for the production of electric drive systems. This role will be significantly expanded over the next few years. In the long term, the number of jobs in this promising field is to rise from currently 600 to up to 2,000 employees, according to Horstmeier.

Dingolfing already supplies the BMW Group's global vehicle plants with batteries and electric motors for the production of electrified vehicles. From 2020, the all-new fifth generation of electric drives will roll off the production line at the site, ensuring further growth in production volumes.

For Ilka Horstmeier, her new assignment in Dingolfing is a bit of a homecoming. In the mid-2000s, the new plant director was responsible for structure planning, programme planning and production control at the site. Then as now she is impressed by the broad expertise of the Dingolfing staff, the great team spirit and the plant's outstanding operational excellence, which is reflected in numerous awards, such as the J.D. Power Gold Award 2018 as the best European vehicle plant in terms of delivery quality.

This is a strong foundation for the new plant director to lead the site with its approximately 18,000 employees into the future and further strengthen its role as the lead plant for the BMW luxury class. Horstmeier: "With the production launch of the new BMW 7 Series in March and further model variants of the BMW 8 Series, our Dingolfing plant is making a major contribution to BMW's model initiative in the luxury segment and to the Group's profitability this year."

Regarding the current situation of the BMW Group and the Dingolfing plant, Horstmeier commented: "Even though the general conditions were not always favorable, we managed to make 2018 a successful business year with another sales record for the BMW Group. With almost 330,000 cars produced, the Dingolfing plant once again made a major contribution to this accomplishment."



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The current market situation, however, demanded more than ever fast response and flexibility. “Thanks to smart agreements with the works council, we at the Dingolfing plant are very well positioned and have the tools we need at our disposal,” explained Horstmeier.

Besides managing the production output and the launch of the BMW 7 Series and 8 Series models, 2019 is above all a year of new beginnings, renewal and shaping the future for the new plant director: “Today, we are benefitting from decisions taken five years or more ago. It is now up to us to do both as well: master our day-to-day business perfectly while at the same time taking the right decisions for the future. This is the task I intend to tackle together with the entire Dingolfing team.”

If you have any questions, please contact:

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The BMW Group Plant Dingolfing

Plant Dingolfing is one of the BMW Group’s 30 global production sites. At Plant 2.4, about 1,500 cars of the BMW 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 Series roll off the assembly lines every day. In total, the plant manufactured close to 330,000 cars in 2018. At present, a total of approx. 18,000 employees and 800 apprentices work at the BMW Group’s site in Dingolfing.

In addition to the automotive core production, BMW Group Plant Dingolfing is also home to production facilities for vehicle components such as pressed parts, seats as well as chassis and drive components. Due to the plant’s aluminium expertise in vehicle construction and longstanding experience in producing alternative drives, BMW Group Plant Dingolfing furthermore provides crucial components for the BMW i models – such as high-voltage battery, e-transmission and the drive structure – to the production site in Leipzig. In addition, Dingolfing produces both high-voltage batteries and electric engines for the BMW Group’s plug-in hybrid models.

The car bodies for all Rolls-Royce models are also manufactured at the site. The Dynamics Center, a large storage and transshipment facility, provides the global BMW and MINI dealership organization with original parts and equipment.



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The BMW Group

With its four brands BMW, MINI, Rolls-Royce and BMW Motorrad, the BMW Group is the world's leading premium manufacturer of automobiles and motorcycles and also provides premium financial and mobility services. The BMW Group production network comprises 30 production and assembly facilities in 14 countries; the company has a global sales network in more than 140 countries.

In 2018, the BMW Group sold over 2,490,000 passenger vehicles and more than 165,000 motorcycles worldwide. The profit before tax in the financial year 2017 was € 10.655 billion on revenues amounting to € 98.678 billion. As of 31 December 2017, the BMW Group had a workforce of 129,932 employees.

The success of the BMW Group has always been based on long-term thinking and responsible action. The company has therefore established ecological and social sustainability throughout the value chain, comprehensive product responsibility and a clear commitment to conserving resources as an integral part of its strategy.

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