

Press release
May 16th 2018

BMW Group R&D Center opens in Beijing

Comprehensive R&D Network enhances localized Innovation

Beijing. On May 15th 2018, the BMW China R&D Center officially opened in Beijing's Shunyi District. As a part of BMW Group **Strategy NUMBER ONE > NEXT**, the center is a significant step in expanding local innovation, and taking the Group's "In China, for China and the world" localization strategy one step further.

"For us, China is a driving force of innovation, a place of inspiration particularly in the field of electrification and digitalization – we think China is the lead market in these fields already today. This is why we began five years ago to set up a comprehensive R&D network in Beijing, Shanghai and Shenyang. And, we expect that the increase of our Chinese R&D activities and the collaboration with more and more top class Chinese tech companies will make a strong contribution to our global R&D outcome, especially in areas such as electro mobility and digitalization." - stated Klaus Fröhlich, Member of the Board of Management BMW AG, Development, at the opening ceremony

Located conveniently just outside Beijing's fifth ring road and covering an area of 17,000m², this new facility has an open office and innovative design, improving communication between R&D teams and providing inspiration for their creative work. Focussing amongst other tasks on requirement management, testing and validation as well as development of services and systems, the new space gives home for more than 200 employees – adding up to a total of more than 1,100 staff in the Chinese R&D network.

Covering a total area of 70,000 m² across the three locations, the centers cultivate local talent, with the result, that more than two thirds of the R&D professionals are Chinese. While each R&D center has different functions, they complement each other and form a comprehensive innovation network.

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Topic BMW Group R&D Center opens in Beijing

Page 2

In 2018, BMW's new R&D Center in Beijing will run more than 70 test vehicles across China, the testing mileage is planned for a historical high of 5 million kilometres.

The BMW Group is enhancing its systematic R&D capabilities on a global level. It is developing a customer-centric R&D system as well as future-oriented R&D concepts, that will provide the Chinese and global market with enhanced, and more innovative products and services. For the BMW Group, China is a driving force of innovation, and plays an important role in its transformation into a customer-centric technology company.

China has been in 2017 the largest market for the BMW Group globally. With the establishment of R&D centers in Beijing, Shanghai and Shenyang, the Chinese R&D network is unique and by far the biggest presence of BMW R&D outside Germany.

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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 2017, the BMW Group sold over 2,463,500 passenger vehicles and more than 164,000 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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