

Press Release
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BMW Advances Neue Klasse Localization in China as Sixth-Generation High-Voltage Batteries Enter Series Production

+++ Dr Milan Nedeljković's makes first visit to China as Chairman of the Board of Management of BMW AG +++ Sixth-generation high-voltage batteries enter series production in Shenyang; ; all three core Gen6 eDrive components to be produced in China +++ The China-specific BMW i3 completes a 1,213-kilometre real-world drive without recharging +++ Key Chinese supplier partners place first orders for the China-specific BMW iX3 +++

Shenyang, October 15, 2026. BMW Group China Innovation Day 2026 was held today in Shenyang, marking the start of series production of sixth-generation high-voltage batteries. This milestone is a decisive step towards local production of Neue Klasse models in China. BMW has completed preparations across core technology development and local production, laying the foundation for the phased production and market launch of the Neue Klasse.

During his first visit to China since taking office, **Dr Milan Nedeljković, Chairman of the Board of Management of BMW AG**, witnessed the milestone in Shenyang. "This is a remarkable moment—for BMW, for Shenyang and for China. The start of series production for our Gen6 high-voltage batteries proves the competitiveness of BMW. It also proves once again that we are and will be a longstanding partner of China. With the NEUE KLASSE, we are starting a new chapter for BMW in China. BMW is ready to lead this new era."

This ambition builds on BMW's long-term commitment to China and sustained investment in innovation. Since 2010, more than RMB 120 billion has been invested in BMW's Shenyang production base, including RMB 10 billion in the sixth-generation high-voltage battery project. In May, the seven-millionth vehicle rolled off the production line in Shenyang. This investment and production expertise underpin BMW's full value-chain capabilities in China.

These capabilities are now accelerating the Neue Klasse towards series production. The start of sixth-generation high-voltage battery production in Shenyang demonstrates BMW's ability to industrialise innovation at scale and to the highest quality standards.

Sixth-Generation High-Voltage Batteries Enter Series Production

With sixth-generation high-voltage batteries entering series production in Shenyang, all three core components of BMW's Gen6 eDrive system will be produced in China—further strengthening the company's local capabilities.

Innovations in cell technology and system integration earned BMW's sixth-generation high-voltage battery recognition as an "International New Energy Vehicle Innovation Technology" at the 2026 World New Energy Vehicle Congress. The seamless interaction of cells, batteries, electric motors, power electronics, energy management, software architecture and vehicle integration delivers greater efficiency, convenience and confidence for customers.

Series production of this core Neue Klasse technology is enabled by BMW's full value-chain capabilities—from research and development, purchasing and quality to production and recycling. Safety, quality and efficiency are embedded from technology definition and joint development through engineering validation and production ramp-up. By integrating research and development, engine and high-voltage battery production, as well as vehicle manufacturing, the Shenyang production base provides the industrial foundation for reliable, high-quality series production.

The China-specific BMW i3 50L Demonstrates System Strength in 1,213-Kilometer Extreme Test

System innovation proves its value in real-world use. Following the new BMW iX3, the first Neue Klasse model, the new China-specific BMW i3 50L has demonstrated its technological strength on public roads. BMW announced at the event that the vehicle had completed a 1,213-kilometre drive without recharging—clear evidence of the Neue Klasse's integrated capabilities.

The result is not attributable to a single specification or technology. It reflects the highly efficient interplay of Gen6 eDrive technology, large cylindrical cells, an 800-volt architecture, energy management, software and vehicle integration—optimising range, efficiency, safety, driving experience and everyday usability as one system.

For BMW, electric mobility means more than range. It must also deliver safety, efficiency, durability, convenient charging and hallmark BMW driving pleasure. The drive translates complex system capabilities into tangible product performance and confirms that the Neue Klasse is moving rapidly from technology to market. The new BMW iX3 and BMW i3 will bring distinct product propositions while accelerating the rollout of Neue Klasse innovation.

Creating Greater Value Together with Chinese Partners

From development and validation to series production, the Neue Klasse combines BMW expertise with the capabilities of Chinese industry partners and a shared commitment to quality. "Building a great car together" captures this approach.

"1+1>2" goes beyond combining resources. It brings together BMW's more than a century of automotive expertise, global engineering standards and system capabilities with the strengths of Chinese partners in artificial intelligence, electric mobility, digitalisation and smart manufacturing. The result is Neue Klasse product substance: smarter technologies, premium quality, dependable safety and hallmark BMW driving pleasure for Chinese customers.

At the event, representatives of five supplier partners placed the first pre-orders for the new BMW iX3: Dr. Liu Jincheng, Chairman of EVE Energy, Dr. Zhu Lingbo, CTO of Oversea Vehicle Business, Dr. Li Feifei, Vice President of Alibaba Group and Chief Technology Officer and President of International Business at Alibaba Cloud Intelligence, Mr. Chen Shengkun, Vice President of Fuyao Group and Mr. Cao Xudong¹, Momenta CEO. Spanning artificial intelligence, high-voltage batteries, and advanced automotive materials and components, the pre-orders demonstrate partner confidence in the Neue Klasse.

BMW works with Chinese partners across research and development, manufacturing and market application to accelerate innovation and address the needs of Chinese customers.

Neue Klasse Opens a New Chapter for BMW in China

Liaoning Province and Shenyang continue to foster a strong business environment and advance the new energy vehicle industry. BMW Brilliance Automotive's integrated footprint across research and development, purchasing, powertrain, and vehicle production is turning Neue Klasse innovations into high-quality products.

"The start of Gen6 series production here in Shenyang is a key foundation for the NEUE KLASSE in China and an important step in taking BMW's localization to the next level," said **Birgit Boehm, President and CEO of BMW Brilliance Automotive Ltd.** "This milestone builds on more than two decades of capability-building here in Shenyang — across R&D, engineering, purchasing and production — as well as the expertise of our people and the strength of our suppliers and partners. For us, quality and safety are non-negotiable. We will turn these collective capabilities into tangible value for our customers so that every BMW earns their trust."

¹ Ordered by Chinese Stroke Count

As the Neue Klasse is rolled out, BMW is further strengthening its footprint in China. Under the BMW Group's latest strategic plan, nearly 20 new and updated models in the Chinese market will feature the Neue Klasse technology by 2027. In addition, the company will expand local production of key models and aims to raise the share of locally produced vehicles sold in China to more than 95 percent by 2030. BMW is also evaluating further exports of China-produced models to markets including Southeast Asia.

Combining more than a century of automotive expertise, strong system capabilities and close integration with China's innovation ecosystem, BMW will continue to deliver premium quality, intelligent experiences, dependable safety and hallmark BMW driving pleasure for Chinese customers.

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The BMW Group in China

BMW Group established its presence in China in 1994. Today, China is the company's largest single market and a key driver of innovation. 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 services. In China, BMW Group has built a comprehensive footprint across the full value chain, covering investment, manufacturing, sales, R&D and digitalisation. The company operates 12 legal entities with major locations in Beijing, Shanghai, Shenyang and Nanjing. BMW Brilliance Automotive Ltd. in Shenyang, Liaoning Province, operates one of the largest production bases in BMW Group's global network, producing models including the BMW 2 Series, 3 Series, 5 Series, X1, X3 and X5. The all-electric MINI Cooper and MINI Aceman are produced in China through Spotlight Automotive, a joint venture established in 2019, which serves as a production hub for global markets. For the latest corporate news, press materials, and financial information, visit: <https://www.press.bmwgroup.com/china>