

Media Information  
March 2017

## **BMW Group Research and Innovation network**

### **The Driving Force: A Passion for Innovation**

In the automotive industry, the days of the lone inventor are long gone. Today, new products are created by entire teams of individuals who all contribute directly via efficient processes and close connections between the various departments. It's this collaborative approach that makes the BMW Group and its BMW, MINI, Rolls-Royce and BMW Motorrad brands so successful.

To recognize trends early and deliver customized solutions to address them, the BMW Group needs to be in constant direct contact with all of its key markets. To do this, it runs a global research network with fifteen locations around the world, keeping its finger on the pulse at all times. These innovation centres work closely with the Research and Innovation Centre (FIZ) in Munich, acting as service providers and driving activities.

### **The BMW Group Research and Innovation Centre (FIZ)**

The FIZ is one of the most cutting-edge development centres in the global automotive industry and a key interface between technical and creative R&D activities. The team there works on a broad spectrum of topics, ranging from product development logistics and manufacturing processes to engines, alternative drives, future materials, future mobility concepts, electro-mobility and autonomous driving. Their findings support the BMW, MINI Rolls-Royce and BMW Motorrad brands as well as BMW M and BMW i sub-brands.

Built in 1986, the FIZ was initially designed for about 4,000 employees. Its unique honeycomb-like layout supports effective communications by keeping distances between employees short. It therefore reflects the importance of interpersonal exchanges as contributors to innovation. In 2004, the Projekthaus was added to the complex, with a layout designed to support the entire BMW Group Product Evolution Process. The Projekthaus brings together all of the BMW Group's functional areas, such as Development, Production and Purchasing, in a single project area.

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**FIZ Future: Long-term Optimization and Expansion of the FIZ**

In spite of numerous extensions, the Munich FIZ constantly operates at the limit of its capacity. Though originally built for 4,000 employees, it currently houses more than 26,000! Over the medium to longer term, as the BMW Group continues to grow, as technologies change (e.g. electric mobility, new materials and increasing connectivity) and new working time and workplace models are introduced, working space will need to be restructured and reorganised. Plans are currently under way to extend the BMW Group Research & Innovation Centre, FIZ, in Munich. Based on an assessment of the company's emerging needs, the FIZ Future project is devising a master plan that will set the framework for the coordinated enhancement of the facility.

**The Worldwide Research and Innovation network of the BMW Group**

The FIZ is the BMW Group's largest development facility by far – but when it comes to innovation, the worldwide R&D network is essential.

The BMW Group operates relevant facilities across the globe. In the US, the BMW Group Technology Office in Mountain View, the Engineering and Emission Test Centre in Oxnard and BMW Designworks USA in Newbury Park form what's known as the California Innovation Triangle. The BMW Group Development Office USA is located in Montvale, a few steps from the sales department of North-, Middle- and South America in Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey.

A few steps from the sales department of North-, Middle-, and South America in Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey, is the BMW Group Development Office USA in Montvale located. China has development offices in Shenyang, Beijing and Shanghai, and a BMW Group Technology Office is based in Tokyo, Japan.

In the BMW Group's centre of excellence for diesel technologies in Steyr, Austria, all BMW Diesel engines have been developed. The cooperation between production specialists and suppliers begins in the earliest stages of development. The same happens at the Landshut Innovation and Technology Centre, Germany, where specialists in lightweight construction technologies work on innovative materials and their associated production processes. Strategically located between vehicle development and production, this centre allows the

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team's expertise to be integrated directly into the design and production of new components and vehicles.

**BMW Group**

With its three brands BMW, MINI and Rolls-Royce, the BMW Group is the world's leading premium manufacturer of automobiles and motorcycles and also provides premium financial and mobility services. As a global company, the BMW Group operates 31 production and assembly facilities in 14 countries and has a global sales network in more than 140 countries.

In 2016, the BMW Group sold approximately 2.367 million cars and 145,000 motorcycles worldwide. The profit before tax was approximately € 9.67 billion on revenues amounting to € 94.16 billion. As of 31 December 2016, the BMW Group had a workforce of 124,729 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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