

Interview with Andreas Heb

Project Manager of the
FUTURE MOBILITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER



- When the project of FMDC began to be considered?
In mid-2014, a new test site strategy was considered.
- How many localities were considered and where?
We have considered more than 80 possible land options in Germany and neighbouring countries.
- Why did you choose Sokolov?
Here in Sokolov, we have found ideal conditions for our future mobility development center. On one hand side Sokolov is only 2,5h away from our development headquarter in Munich and on the other hand we have here a brownfield as a former mining area, so we as a sustainable premium brand do not seal valuable green spaces.
- When did the construction start?
The Construction work started in May 2020.
- What were the biggest challenges?
Along with start of construction this tiny Corona Virus appears ... so we had to manage end of project planning and ramp up of constructions site under for all partners completely new circumstances. And we made it!
- How many people have worked on FMDC so far and how many people will work there in operation?
Over the different project phases we had up to 250 Planning Partners involved and on construction site up to 600 employees at the same time. From June 2023 we do expect to have more than 200 people at the same time operating on the proofing ground.
- What nationalities will the people who work there be?
We are an international company and do not commit ourselves in this respect. But our employees will of course mainly be from the local region.
- When will the full operation start?
The "Start of Testing" (SOT) of the currently implemented scopes will take place on 06/2023.
- What exactly will be tested and developed in FMDC?
The new development center that will be built in Sokolov is very important for us to expand our testing capacities for the next steps towards digitalisation, electro mobility and off course highly automated driving.
- How many cars will drive on it at most?
We do expect to have up to 100 Test cars running daily from June 2023 on.