

## **Ready for Series Production: BMW Group Achieves Major Breakthrough with Utilization of Natural Fiber Composites.**

- Natural fiber composites available for use in series production of future models
- Reduced CO<sub>2</sub>e in production with end-of-life consideration
- BMW M Motorsport applies innovative material technologies

**Munich.** Following the successful utilization of renewable raw materials in racing cars, the BMW Group will now harness natural fiber composites also for its series-production models. The BMW Group reached series maturity of natural fiber composites following several years of development and in-depth research. The composites from renewable raw materials even meet the stringent demands of roof structures in total vehicle homologation.

The flax-based lightweight components have been developed in collaboration with Bcomp, a Swiss clean-tech company, for several years now. The partnership with Bcomp supports the BMW Group's goal of further reducing CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions in future vehicle models. The Munich-based carmaker holds a stake in Bcomp through BMW i Ventures, the company's venture capital arm. Lightweight construction has long been a crucial development field for the BMW Group. The use of natural fibers with a reduced CO<sub>2</sub>e footprint in composite materials has become increasingly important. Materials tests have demonstrated the fibers' great suitability, especially for visible exterior and interior components.

One example: Exchanging carbon fiber composites for natural fiber composites in the roof of the next-generation BMW Group portfolio leads to a CO<sub>2</sub>e-reduction of around 40% in production plus additional end-of-life considerations.

The innovative reinforcement parts made of natural fiber composites were initially used by BMW M Motorsport in the 2019 season of Formula E. Since then, the components have also been successfully used in the BMW M4 DTM and M4 GT4, replacing carbon fiber plastic (CFRP) parts. Since 2022, Bcomp has been an official BMW M Motorsport partner for the BMW M4 GT4.

The new lightweight materials will soon experience the ultimate performance test as they are fitted in the BMW M4 GT4 for the 24-hour race on the Nürburgring. Franciscus van Meel, CEO of BMW M GmbH, stated: "Natural fiber composites are a vital element of innovative lightweight solutions in motorsport, allowing for a reduction in CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions in the manufacturing process. Natural fiber is an innovation that perfectly exemplifies BMW M's claim 'Born on the racetrack. Made for the streets.' This is why we are delighted to confirm the series maturity of these materials, a breakthrough we achieved with our official BMW M Motorsport partner Bcomp. We are now looking forward to the use of these materials in future BMW M product ranges.

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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 services. The BMW Group production network comprises over 30 production sites worldwide; the company has a global sales network in more than 140 countries.

In 2024, the BMW Group sold over 2.45 million passenger vehicles and more than 210,000 motorcycles worldwide. The profit before tax in the financial year 2024 was € 11.0 billion on revenues amounting to € 142.4 billion. As of 31 December 2024, the BMW Group had a workforce of 159,104 employees.

The economic success of the BMW Group has always been based on long-term thinking and responsible action. Sustainability is a key element of the BMW Group's corporate strategy and covers all products from the supply chain and production to the end of their useful life.

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## **BMW Group Latin America**

BMW Group is a leader in premium individual mobility technology products and services in Latin America, where it markets its three brands: BMW, MINI, and BMW Motorrad. BMW is the top-selling premium automotive brand in Latin America, with more than one in three vehicles sold in the region. In 2024, the brand has sold 42,886 units. MINI has sold 6,383 units in the same period. BMW Motorrad has sold 27,742 motorcycles in the region, setting a sales record. BMW is the best-selling premium brand in Brazil, Mexico, and Importer Markets. BMW Motorrad has achieved record sales and now has three of its 15 main global markets in Latin America: Brazil, Mexico, and Importer Markets. BMW Group's Open Technology Approach enables a gradual transition to electromobility, offering customers the choice between battery-electric, plug-in hybrid, or combustion powertrains. More than 20% of BMW Group's sales in Latin America consist of electric or plug-in hybrid vehicles. BMW Group has delivered approximately 80,000 personal or corporate charging units across the region.

The Group has 5,000 employees in the Latin American region. Its sales offices are located in Argentina, Brazil, and Mexico (where the regional office is based). BMW Group's production plants in the region are located in Brazil and Mexico. Brazil operates two plants: one in Araquari, Santa Catarina, focused on automobile production, where BMW X5 PHEV production began in 2024. The other plant in Manaus, Amazonas, is the first facility to manufacture motorcycles outside of Germany. In Mexico, a one-billion-dollar investment was announced in July 2014 for the construction and operation of a BMW Group plant in San Luis Potosí. This production site began operations in 2019 with the production of the BMW 3 Series; in 2021, an expansion was announced to include the manufacturing of the BMW 2 Series Coupé, and in 2022, the BMW M2, both exported worldwide. Starting in 2027, the San Luis Potosí Plant will incorporate electric vehicle and battery production with an \$800 million investment.

As additional information, Brazil has an engineering team to support global developments, regional challenges, and customer support organization, providing consumer assistance.

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