

Media Information
20 October 2022

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"We are working consistently to advance the transformation":

BMW Group to establish eight new e-component production lines in Leipzig

+++ Complete process chain for high-voltage battery production in Leipzig +++ Five cell coating lines, an additional module line and two high-voltage battery lines by 2024 +++ Production of e-components for forthcoming fully electric MINI Countryman made in Leipzig +++

Leipzig. The BMW Group is to increase e-component production capacity at its manufacturing base in Leipzig with another eight production lines by 2024. The announcement was made on 20 October at the Green Day in BMW Group Plant Leipzig. Over the next year, the plant's two existing battery module lines will be complemented by a further line plus five cell coating lines. These will be followed by two new high-voltage battery assembly lines due to go on stream in 2024. The batteries they make will power models such as the fully electric version of the MINI Countryman, which will also be built in Leipzig.

"The BMW Group has always been a pioneer in the transformation to electric mobility," said Milan Nedeljković, BMW AG Board Member for Production, "and we intend to remain the leader in the future. Plant Leipzig will be of special importance in this regard, as it's the birthplace of the BMW i3." From 2013 to the summer of 2022, Leipzig manufactured more than 250,000 fully electric BMW i3 vehicles and over 20,000 plug-in hybrid BMW i8 sports cars. The freed-up spaces and the skills of its employees will now be used to produce e-components. More than 700 production staff are already working in battery component production at Plant Leipzig, rising to more than 1,000 by 2024.

"We are working consistently to advance the transformation to electromobility," said Markus Fallböhmer, Head of Engine at E-Drive Production at BMW AG, "and we continue to develop our e-drive production network to make it happen. From 2024, the entire process chain for high-voltage battery production will run not just at Dingolfing but at Leipzig as well."

Over 800 million euros invested in e-components at Leipzig

Between 2020 and the end of 2024, the BMW Group will have invested more than 800 million euros in establishing e-component production in Leipzig. In the future, this area of production will take up around 150,000 m² on the site.

Investments in e-drive production in Dingolfing and Regensburg

Between 2018 and the end of 2022, the BMW Group will have invested more than 1 billion euros in the manufacture of fifth-generation e-drive components at the Dingolfing Competence Centre for E-Drive Production – which also produces electric motors. In Regensburg, investments in e-drive component production have totalled more than 250 million euros between 2020 and late 2022.

Five new cell coating lines from 2023

In the first quarter of 2023, the first of five new battery cell coating systems will go on stream at the Leipzig site, followed by another four systems which will launch in stages until the end of the same year.

The battery cells they will process will be manufactured by external suppliers working to BMW Group specifications. First of all, the lithium-ion cells will be plasma-cleansed before being coated by the specially developed systems to ensure optimum insulation.

Third battery module line to launch in summer 2023

After being coated, the cells are assembled to form larger units known as battery modules. In Leipzig this is currently being done on two existing module lines. A third is set to go on stream in the summer of 2023.

Two high-voltage battery assembly lines from 2024

Once complete, the battery modules, connectors, control units and cooling aggregates are fitted into an aluminium casing. The number of modules and the size and shape of the casing depend on which vehicle variant they will be used in, so that each vehicle is fitted with the most suitable high-voltage battery.

In the future, Plant Leipzig will also assemble high-voltage batteries when two designated assembly lines go on stream in 2024.

Global production network for e-drives focused in Germany

The BMW Group is drawing on its global production network to meet the increasing need for e-drive component production capacity. High-voltage batteries and battery components for electric vehicles by the BMW and MINI brands will not only be made in Leipzig but also in Spartanburg, USA, and Shenyang, China. At Plant Rayong, Thailand, high-voltage battery production has been localised with the support of a BMW Group partner.

Meanwhile, Munich is home to the E-Drive Pilot Plant and the Battery Cell Competence Centre, which performs detailed analyses of the value creation processes in battery cell production and advances the relevant technologies. In the not-too-distant future the BMW Group will also be launching its Competence Centre for Battery Cell Production in Parsdorf, just outside Munich. Here, a pilot production system for the near-series manufacture of lithium-ion battery cells will ensure they can be mass-produced to quality, time and cost specifications.

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The BMW Group manufactures its electric motors in the Competence Centre for E-Drive Production in Dingolfing and at BMW Group Plant Landshut. Casings for the highly integrated fifth-generation electric drive are produced in BMW Group Plant Steyr.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Corporate Communications

Christian Marxt, Communication Production Network BMW Group

Telephon: +49-89-382-79158

E-Mail: Christian.Marxt@bmwgroup.com

Kai Lichte, Head of Communication BMW Group Plant Leipzig

Telephon: +49-341-445-38000

E-Mail: Kai.Lichte@bmwgroup.com

Media website: www.press.bmwgroup.com

E-mail: presse@bmw.de

The BMW Group production network

The BMW Group has long seen itself as the benchmark in production technology and operative excellence in vehicle manufacturing. The strategic vision of its global production network – BMW iFACTORY. LEAN. GREEN. DIGITAL. – sets out the company's responses to the challenges of the transformation to e-mobility and pursues a global approach.

LEAN stands for efficiency, precision, absolute flexibility and outstanding integrational capabilities. GREEN represents the use of cutting-edge technologies to realise production with minimal resources and cut CO2 emissions per car in production by 80% compared with 2019. With DIGITAL the focus is on data science, artificial intelligence, planning and development. Together, these things make the BMW Group Production Network a key contributor to the profitability of the company.

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 over 30 production sites all over the world; the company has a global sales network in more than 140 countries.

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In 2021, the BMW Group sold over 2.5 million passenger vehicles and more than 194,000 motorcycles worldwide. The profit before tax in the financial year 2021 was € 16.1 billion on revenues amounting to € 111.2 billion. As of 31 December 2021, the BMW Group had a workforce of 118,909 employees.

The success of the BMW Group has always been based on long-term thinking and responsible action. The company set the course for the future at an early stage and consistently makes sustainability and efficient resource management central to its strategic direction, from the supply chain through production to the end of the use phase of all products.

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