

Media information

Datum 24. October 2025

Thema Successful auction of the BMW R 18 Transcontinental signed by Pope Leo XIV. on October 18, 2025, as part of a Sotheby's auction in Munich.

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24. October 2025

Successful auction of the BMW R 18 Transcontinental signed by Pope Leo XIV. on October 18, 2025, as part of a Sotheby's auction in Munich. The proceeds of 130,000 euros will be donated to children's aid projects in Madagascar.

Munich. On September 3, 2025, during a ceremonial event at the Vatican, a specially customized BMW R 18 Transcontinental was presented to Pope Leo XIV. for blessing and signing on the motorcycle.

This uniquely customized R 18 Transcontinental, donated by BMW Motorrad and bearing the signature of the Pontiff, was successfully auctioned by Missio Austria through Sotheby's at Motorworld in Munich on October 18, 2025. The proceeds from this auction, amounting to 130,000 euros, will go to children's aid projects in Madagascar.

Markus Flasch, CEO BMW Motorrad: "The fantastic result of the auction of our R 18 Transcontinental signed by Pope Leo XIV. is a wonderful final highlight of this charity campaign. Like everyone involved, I am also delighted that we can make a significant contribution with the auction proceeds of 130,000 euros to support aid projects for children in Madagascar together with Missio Austria. And of course, I wish the new owner lots of fun with this unique BMW R 18 Transcontinental.

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The BMW Group

With its four brands BMW, MINI 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 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 success of the BMW Group has always been based on long-term thinking and responsible action. Sustainability, from the supply chain through production to the end-of-life phase of all products, is an important part of the BMW Group's corporate strategy.

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