

Media Information
10 January 2019

Leading the way in digitalisation: World Economic Forum in Davos names BMW Group Plant Regensburg ‘Lighthouse of the Fourth Industrial Revolution’

+++ Plant Regensburg appointed member of WEF Network of ‘Lighthouses’, representing BMW Group Production System +++
WEF particularly commends fast, streamlined connection of new digital applications enabled by Intranet-of-Things platform +++

Munich/Regensburg. The World Economic Forum (WEF) has today named BMW Group Plant Regensburg a ‘Lighthouse of the Fourth Industrial Revolution’, acknowledging its pioneering role in the digitalisation of industrial production. The honour was bestowed after an in-depth selection process which saw the WEF examine around 1,000 production facilities in various industry sectors. A total of seven plants have today joined the circle of ‘Factories of the Future’.

The BMW Group Production System is closely based on the Strategy NUMBER ONE > NEXT. The wide-ranging technological opportunities raised by the digital transformation in particular are being integrated into production to positive effect. According to the WEF, especially by using the custom BMW Group Intranet-of-Things platform, the Regensburg Plant cut the time to deploy all new applications by 80% leading to a significant reduction in logistics costs.

Manfred Erlacher, Plant Director at BMW Group Plant Regensburg: “The creativity and experience of our associates are the key drivers of effective innovations and consequently of our production system as well. Once a smart solution is successfully implemented, it soon spreads to other areas of production and other BMW Group sites.”

It is these solutions that make the increasing complexity of production manageable at all: high-performance production systems are enabling the BMW Group’s 30 production and assembly plants in 14 countries to deliver a global daily output of around 10,000 vehicles. These comprise more than 40 BMW, MINI and Rolls-Royce model variants, a great many of them individually configured. The decision by the WEF to induct the Regensburg Plant into its community of ‘Lighthouses of the Fourth Industrial Revolution’ provides

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confirmation of the success of the many digital solutions in the BMW Group Production System.

The smooth integration of new, digital applications into production IT is supported first and foremost by the BMW Group Intranet-of-Things platform. This offers employees a wide range of digital tools and accessories which they can combine to create their own plug-and-play solutions. It's an approach that keeps people firmly in the focus of value creation and offers them even more scope to shape their own workstations.

Dr. Christian Patron, Head of Innovation, Digitalisation and Data Analytics: "The recognition of Plant Regensburg as a Lighthouse motivates us to continue on our chosen pathway. Effective digital solutions and structural decisions provide us with clear strategic guidance and, along with the overarching BMW IoT platform, they are key factors in our success. The capacity of our associates to shape developments and integrate new solutions into production is fundamental to what we do."

The digitalisation of the BMW Group Production System is largely taking place in the fields of innovative automation and assistance systems, additive manufacturing, smart data analytics and smart logistics.

To find out more, see our press releases:

BMW Group Harnesses Potential of Innovative Automation and Flexible Assistance Systems in Production:

<https://www.press.bmwgroup.com/global/article/detail/T0268199EN/bmw-group-harnesses-potential-of-innovative-automation-and-flexible-assistance-systems-in-production>

A million printed components in just ten years: BMW Group makes increasing use of 3D printing:

<https://www.press.bmwgroup.com/global/article/detail/T0286895EN/a-million-printed-components-in-just-ten-years:-bmw-group-makes-increasing-use-of-3d-printing>

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Smart Data Analytics: BMW Group relies on intelligent use of production data for efficient processes and premium quality:

<https://www.press.bmwgroup.com/global/article/detail/T0273931EN/smart-data-analytics:-bmw-group-relies-on-intelligent-use-of-production-data-for-efficient-processes-and-premium-quality>

Connected, flexible, autonomous: BMW Group expands use of innovative technologies in production logistics:

<https://www.press.bmwgroup.com/global/article/detail/T0287775EN/connected-flexible-autonomous:-bmw-group-expands-use-of-innovative-technologies-in-production-logistics>

A glimpse of the future: BMW Group uses virtual reality to design future production workstations:

<https://www.press.bmwgroup.com/global/article/detail/T0287223EN/a-glimpse-of-the-future:-bmw-group-uses-virtual-reality-to-design-future-production-workstations>

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The BMW Group production network

Strong customer demand and the launch of new models resulted in very high capacity utilisation for the BMW Group's production network in 2017. With 2,505,741 vehicles produced for the BMW, MINI and Rolls-Royce brands, production volumes reached a new all-time high. This figure included 2,123,947 BMW, 378,486 MINI and 3,308 Rolls-Royce units. The company's German plants, which produced more than one million vehicles, are responsible for roughly half of production volumes.

With its unparalleled flexibility, the leading-edge production system is in excellent shape for the future. Based on Strategy NUMBER ONE > NEXT, it is characterised by a high level of efficiency and robust processes. The BMW Group's production expertise represents a decisive competitive advantage and contributes to the profitability of the company and its sustainable success.

Quality and speed of reaction are key factors in the BMW production system, as well as flexibility. Digitalisation, standardised modular concepts and intelligent composite construction testify to the high level of expertise within the production network. At the same time, the production system offers a very high level of customisation and allows customer specifications to be modified up until six days before delivery.

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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 and mobility services. The BMW Group production network comprises 30 production and assembly facilities in 14 countries; the company has a global sales network in more than 140 countries.

In 2017, the BMW Group sold over 2,463,500 passenger vehicles and more than 164,000 motorcycles worldwide. The profit before tax in the financial year 2017 was € 10.655 billion on revenues amounting to € 98.678 billion. As of 31 December 2017, the BMW Group had a workforce of 129,932 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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