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**BMW Manufacturing Reaches Another Milestone**

Celebrates Production of 1 Million BMW X5's

**Spartanburg, S.C. – June 8, 2010…** BMW's plant in Spartanburg, South Carolina recorded another milestone in their 15 year history as the 1 millionth BMW X5 Sports Activity Vehicle® rolled off the production line today at BMW Manufacturing Co. The Black Sapphire X5 xDrive 35i with Cinnamon Brown Nevada Leather interior is bound for a customer in China.

This is a significant achievement for the BMW Group’s only U.S. manufacturing facility at a time when the manufacturer is just months away from completing a $750 million expansion to prepare for production of the next generation BMW X3.

The BMW X5, which was originally launched in Spartanburg in 1999 as the first vehicle in the Sports Activity segment, has laid the cornerstone for BMW as the most successful premium vehicle manufacturer in the SAV/SUV segment during its 11-year history. This commitment to continuous improvement has resulted in numerous accolades for the vehicle's design, quality and safety. In 2000, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) declared the BMW X5 to be the safest vehicle ever to be crash-tested. In 2007, the BMW X5 received a gold award in the J.D. Power customer satisfaction study in North America. In 2007 and 2008, the X5 received the "Top Safety Pick Award" for outstanding crash test results from the IIHS. During this timeframe, approximately 60% of all X5’s produced at the Spartanburg facility have been exported to over 120 markets around the world.

“The success of the X5 is directly attributable to the designers of the vehicle, our parts suppliers and the many dedicated and hard working associates who continue to come together and create such a special vehicle," said Mr. Josef Kerscher, President of BMW Manufacturing during a brief ceremony at the end of the production line. The 1 millionth X5 coming off the assembly line today was ordered by a customer in China and will soon be shipped to the Port of Charleston to begin its journey overseas.

Joining Mr. Kerscher at today’s event were Secretary of Commerce Joseph E. Taylor and South Carolina State Ports Authority boardmember Richard Hagins. Unable to join the event, U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham praised BMW’s commitment to America by growing its presence in South Carolina and exporting South Carolina-made BMW’s throughout the world. “It tells me, and should tell all South Carolinians, that world-class manufacturing in our state is not only doable, but that it can lead our economic recovery efforts,” said Senator Graham.  “This is a day of great pride for all South Carolinians and the BMW family.  It is a testament to the quality of the SC workforce, the supply chain, and to BMW, one of the greatest automobile manufacturers in the world.  Now, one million X5s later, BMW is one of the great business success stories in the history of South Carolina.  This milestone gives us hope for the future and is a positive sign that through world-class manufacturing our state will prosper will in the years ahead.”

BMW Manufacturing began production in 1994 as the first European manufacturer to successfully build and operate a plant in the U.S. The factory celebrated its 15th anniversary in South Carolina last September and has produced approximately 1.6 million vehicles since that time. Recently, plant officials, also acknowledged that it has exported over 1 million vehicles from its Greer campus during this time span.

**BMW Manufacturing Co.**

BMW Manufacturing Co. is a subsidiary of BMW AG in Munich, Germany and is the global producer of the BMW X5 Sports Activity Vehicle and X6 Sports Activity Coupe. In addition to the South Carolina manufacturing facility, BMW North American subsidiaries include sales, marketing and financial services operations in the United States, Canada and throughout Latin America; and a design firm and technology office in California. For more information on BMW Manufacturing, visit [www.bmwusfactory.com](http://www.bmwusfactory.com).

**The BMW Group**

With its three brands – BMW, MINI and Rolls-Royce – the BMW Group is one of the world’s most successful premium manufacturers of cars and motorcycles. It operates internationally with 24 production sites in 13 countries and a global sales network with representation in more than 140 countries. During the financial year 2009, the BMW Group sold approximately 1.29 million cars and more than 87,000 motorcycles worldwide. The profit before tax for 2009 was euro 413 million, revenues totalled euro 50.68 billion. At 31.December 2009, the BMW Group had a workforce of approximately 96,000 employees.

Long-term thinking and responsible action have long been the foundation of the BMW Group’s success. Striving for ecological and social sustainability along the entire value-added chain, taking full responsibility for our products and giving an unequivocal commitment to preserving resources are prime objectives firmly embedded in our corporate strategies. For these reasons, the BMW Group has been sector leader in the Dow Jones Sustainability Indices for the last five years.

Information about BMW Group products is available to consumers via the Internet at: [www.bmwgroupna.com](http://www.bmwgroupna.com)

**Journalist note:** Information about the BMW Group and its products is available to journalists on-line at the BMW Group PressClub at the following address: [www.press.bmwna.com](http://www.press.bmwna.com). Additional information, images and video may be found at [www.bmwusanews.com](http://www.bmwusanews.com). Broadcast quality video footage is available via The NewsMarket at [www.thenewsmarket.com](http://www.thenewsmarket.com).

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