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## **BMW Opens its Newest Vehicle Distribution Center at the Port of Baltimore.**

**Woodcliff Lake, NJ – September 18, 2014...** Today, BMW Group celebrated the official opening of its newest Vehicle Distribution Center at the Port of Baltimore. The facility will serve 96 dealers within the Central and Eastern regions of BMW's dealer network. Ludwig Willisch, President and CEO, BMW of North America, and Craig Westbrook, Vice President – Aftersales, BMW of North America, were in attendance and spoke at the opening.

"BMW Group year-to-date sales in the U.S. set a new benchmark, topping 246,000 vehicles in the first eight months of this year, and we are full of confidence that we will follow our success through the remaining months of 2014," said Ludwig Willisch, President and CEO, BMW of North America. "For us at BMW, there is nothing more important than the satisfaction of our customers, and this Vehicle Distribution Center will play a critical role in keeping our customers happy with a full supply of new BMW vehicles for them to enjoy."

With this new facility, BMW enhances its position at the largest car processing port on the East Coast. Already fully staffed, this Vehicle Distribution Center will import an estimated total of 166,000 vehicles (BMW & MINI) through 2016. Vehicle inspection, repairs (mechanical and Paint and Body), accessory installation, vehicle programming and vehicle maintenance will be performed there as well.

"This is the front line of our customer service effort, especially for our customers in the central part of the U.S.," said Craig Westbrook, Aftersales VP of BMW of North America. "Our new Baltimore port facility is dedicated to receiving from overseas, rapidly preparing and then quickly delivering new vehicles to our customers and dealers."

Located at 2700 Broening Highway, the new Vehicle Distribution Center provides room for BMW to further build its processing operation, as business continues to grow. To honor the occasion, BMW executives were joined onsite by Ray Fitzgerald, President of Wallenius Wilhelmsen Logistics, Atlantic, and James J. White, Executive Director, Maryland Port Administration.

"It's a natural evolution that BMW and WWL, longtime partners in ocean transportation, expand their supply chain cooperation into land-based logistics services," said Ray Fitzgerald, President of Wallenius Wilhelmsen Logistics, Atlantic. "Wallenius Wilhelmsen Logistics values its association with BMW and is confident in its ability to provide high quality vehicle processing and logistics services in support of BMW's long-term growth ambitions in North America."

"We are delighted to be involved in a partnership of two very highly-regarded entities in their respective industries, BMW and WWL," said James J. White, Executive Director, Maryland Port Administration. "BMW is one of the world's top auto manufacturers and WWL is second to none as a global shipping and logistics company. As the top auto-handling port in the nation, we look forward to watching this relationship grow and succeed."

A variety of BMW vehicles were on display at the opening event, including the revolutionary i8, BMW's new plug-in hybrid sports car. With its futuristic design and groundbreaking technology, the BMW i8 will enter the U.S. market early autumn 2014, joining BMW i's growing lineup of visionary vehicles dedicated to solving many of the mobility challenges faced by the world's most densely populated cities.

### **BMW Group In America**

BMW of North America, LLC has been present in the United States since 1975. Rolls-Royce Motor Cars NA, LLC began distributing vehicles in 2003. The BMW Group in the United States has grown to include marketing, sales, and financial service organizations for the BMW brand of motor vehicles, including motorcycles, the MINI brand, and the Rolls-Royce brand of Motor Cars; DesignworksUSA, a strategic design consultancy in California; a technology office in Silicon Valley and various other operations throughout the country. BMW Manufacturing Co., LLC in South Carolina is part of BMW Group's global manufacturing network and is the exclusive manufacturing plant for all X5 and X3 Sports Activity Vehicles and X6 and X4 Sports Activity Coupes. The BMW Group sales organization

is represented in the U.S. through networks of 339 BMW passenger car and BMW Sports Activity Vehicle centers, 140 BMW motorcycle retailers, 121 MINI passenger car dealers, and 35 Rolls-Royce Motor Car dealers. BMW (US) Holding Corp., the BMW Group's sales headquarters for North America, is located in Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey.

**Journalist note:** Information about BMW Group and its products in the USA is available to journalists on-line at [www.bmwgroupusanews.com](http://www.bmwgroupusanews.com) and [www.press.bmwna.com](http://www.press.bmwna.com).

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