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## Volkswagen Group establishes artificial intelligence company

- Digital products based on artificial intelligence (AI) will play a key role for the Volkswagen Group in the future
- Volkswagen intends to simplify collaboration with tech companies and to make optimum use of the AI sector's innovation potential
- New "AI Lab" within the Group will act as a globally networked competence center and incubator
- "AI Lab" will identify new product ideas connected with AI and collaborate with tech companies as the need arises

Wolfsburg, 31. January 2024 - In the future, digital products based on artificial intelligence (AI) will play a key role for the Volkswagen Group. New infotainment and navigation applications, high-performance speech recognition, extended vehicle functions and the deep integration of digital ecosystems in the car will bring considerable benefits to customers, enhancing the product experience. This is why Volkswagen has established a specialized "AI Lab". The company will act as a globally networked competence center and incubator. AI Lab will identify new product ideas for the Volkswagen Group, and coordinate them internally within the Group. As the need arises, this will also include collaboration with the tech sector in Europe, China and North America. By adopting this approach, the Volkswagen Group intends to simplify collaboration with technology companies with a view to making optimum use of the innovation potential and speed of the AI sector. The objective is to rapidly develop digital prototypes and transfer them to the Group brands for implementation.



"We want to offer our customers genuine added value with artificial intelligence. We aim to link external digital ecosystems with the vehicle, creating an even better product experience," says Oliver Blume, CEO of the Volkswagen Group and Porsche AG. "Collaboration with technology companies is crucially important for us. In future, we intend to simplify cooperation in organizational and cultural terms."

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## **Volkswagen aims to bring AI products to the vehicle and vehicle environment**

The Volkswagen Group is committed to continually integrating new digital products with artificial intelligence in its vehicles and offering customers added value going beyond their cars.

Among other items, Volkswagen sees considerable potential in high-performance speech recognition and services that connect users' own digital environments with the vehicle. Extended vehicle functions will be equally important. These can include AI-optimized charging cycles for electric vehicles, predictive maintenance and the networking of vehicles with infrastructure, such as customers' own homes ("smart home").

## **AI Lab to identify product ideas and rapidly produce prototypes**

AI Lab will not manufacture production models, but will serve as an incubator for the Volkswagen Group. The company will identify new product ideas connected with artificial intelligence throughout the world. AI Lab will then develop highly promising concepts together with partners where the need arises, to produce early prototypes. AI Lab will have a team of artificial intelligence experts and will work closely with all the brands. High-ranking representatives of the brand groups will form the Supervisory Board.

AI Lab's slim and powerful organization and the direct involvement of the brand groups in the Supervisory Board will enable communication among equal partners in the dynamic AI sector, expedite processes and simplify collaboration between the automotive industry and tech companies.

"With our new 'AI Lab', we are combining technological expertise, flexibility and speed in collaboration with external partners. This will be crucial in the highly dynamic AI sector," says Michael Steiner, Head of Research and Development of the Volkswagen Group and Member of the Executive Board, Research and Development of Porsche AG. "We will pursue highly promising initiatives in the marketplace, together with partners where this is necessary, irrespective of existing arrangements and other links in series production."

Exploratory talks on the first products are already underway with international tech companies.

## **High-profile team to manage new AI Lab**

The Board of Management of AI Lab will include Carsten Helbing as CEO and Carmen Schmidt as CLO & CBO. Recognized artificial intelligence experts will be responsible for technical management functions. The Supervisory Board will consist of members of the Boards of Management of the Volkswagen, Audi and Porsche brands.

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## About the Volkswagen Group:

The Volkswagen Group is one of the world's leading car makers, headquartered in Wolfsburg, Germany. It operates globally, with 115 production facilities in 19 European countries and 10 countries in the Americas, Asia and Africa. With around 676,000 employees worldwide. The Group's vehicles are sold in over 150 countries.

With an unrivalled portfolio of strong global brands, leading technologies at scale, innovative ideas to tap into future profit pools and an entrepreneurial leadership team, the Volkswagen Group is committed to shaping the future of mobility through investments in electric and autonomous driving vehicles, digitalization and sustainability.

In 2022, the total number of vehicles delivered to customers by the Group globally was 8.3 million (2021: 8.9 million). Group sales revenue in 2022 totaled EUR 279.2 billion (2021: EUR 250.2 billion). The operating result before special items in 2022 amounted to EUR 22.5 billion (2021: EUR 20.0 billion).