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Successful launch of 'dProduction': ŠKODA AUTO optimises production processes at Kvasiny plant

- › 'dProduction' guides employees at the Czech Kvasiny site through production steps, documentation and quality control
- › The multimedia system prevents errors and enables a greater degree of product complexity
- › Project was given the Automotive Lean Production award shortly after its launch

Kvasiny, 18 September 2019 – ŠKODA AUTO is consistently turning to technology from Industry 4.0 and has successfully introduced the 'dProduction' digital notification system at the Kvasiny factory. Providing multimedia information, it supports the workforce in carrying out manufacturing steps correctly, notifies them of changes to the production process and serves as proof of quality control. dProduction thus prevents errors, saves time and money, and is used as a digital manual as well as for documentation in place of vast quantities of paper.

Michael Oeljeklaus, ŠKODA AUTO Board Member for Production and Logistics, said, "As a cornerstone of our production network, our ultra-modern Kvasiny site plays a key role in achieving production targets. The gradual digitalisation of production continues to optimise the manufacturing processes. dProduction makes it easier for our staff to orient themselves within the production steps. This project strengthens the competencies of the Kvasiny plant and the approximately 9,000 employees that work there."

ŠKODA AUTO implemented the dProduction project on one of the two assembly lines in Kvasiny in April, investing around 1.2 million euros. ŠKODA builds the SUPERB and KODIAQ models on this line, as well as – from today – the brand's first model with a plug-in hybrid powertrain, the SUPERB iV.

dProduction prevents errors and enables documentation to be accessed more quickly: digital instructions are displayed on a screen, which the employees activate using their plant ID cards. The members of staff then only receive information that is relevant to their current task. Text, 3D models and video tutorials help them to identify how and where they should correctly install which part. This saves time and reduces the chance of errors on the assembly line. This subsystem of dProduction, called VISPART, is set up to work in multiple languages.

The system operates bidirectionally and allows workers to not only read information, but also to input changes, for example. Each member of staff is granted permissions and assigned to a specific model automatically upon scanning their ID card.

The digital quality management system replaces the common method of manually stamping a job card to confirm completion of each step in the process, which had been used up until now. Thanks to dProduction, employees now only need to insert their ID card into the card reader – the system then automatically saves all of the data relating to each manufacturing step.

Quality control on the production line in Kvasiny is also digitally documented. Up until now, staff noted any subsequent work needed on a form that was attached to the inside of the car. To do this they had to find and fill out specific boxes on the form in a very short space of time. The new SQS subsystem



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makes this process quicker and easier: all the quality controller has to do is select the appropriate points using the touchscreen and the information is directly transferred into the system.

All of the aspects of dProduction share a common environmental advantage: instructions, manuals, documentation and quality notes no longer need to be printed out, and any changes to these no longer result in the need to newly distribute the relevant paperwork. Since the project's launch in April 2019, ŠKODA AUTO has thereby already saved dozens of kilogrammes in paper at the Kvasiny site.

Digital technology at the state-of-the-art ŠKODA AUTO factory in Kvasiny

ŠKODA AUTO has been continuously modernising the Kvasiny plant for many years to make optimum use of capacity at the site. Kvasiny is regarded as one of the most up-to-date manufacturing locations in the entire automotive industry and was thus the first choice for the premiere of dProduction. Added to that, the production line on which the KODIAQ and SUPERB models are built is one of the shortest in the industry. It consists of 50 cycles, which include around 5,000 production steps. For the dProduction project, ŠKODA AUTO installed 50 touchscreens – one per work cycle – as well as 100 standard screens along the assembly line. And that's not all: 19 km of cable, 200 plug sockets and 2.5 tonnes of electronic hardware were also put in place.

For dProduction alone, ŠKODA AUTO developed three new systems, implemented 17 new interfaces with existing systems, configured 3,500 steps and trained 800 production employees in how to handle the digital helpers.

The dProduction project is part of the FORCE programme with which ŠKODA AUTO is breaking new ground in production to future-proof the brand. FORCE is a comprehensive digital toolbox that is expected to increase efficiency and flexibility, and make vehicle production fit to face the challenges posed by globalisation. To this end, ŠKODA AUTO has defined eight activity areas – they cover all aspects of successful vehicle production and have been given clearly stipulated objectives.

Prize-winning project seen as a benchmark within the automotive industry

In July, [dProduction was given the prestigious Automotive Lean Production Award](#) in the category of 'Special Award – Smart Digital Application'. Industry magazine AUTOMOBIL PRODUKTION and business consultants Agamus Consult annually award the prize for the best projects and initiatives in the automotive industry. The awards' motto is 'Learn from the Best' and they aim to set benchmarks in the areas of lean industry and the digitalisation of the international automotive industry. Michael Oeljeklaus will accept the award on behalf of the Production and Logistics area at the 14th Automotive Lean Production conference, which will be hosted by Volkswagen in Wolfsburg on 5 and 6 November 2019.



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Media image:



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The system is based on touchscreens with card readers. Employees can quickly access all of the necessary information at each station using their ID card.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO

ŠKODA AUTO

- › was founded during the pioneering days of the automobile in 1895, making it one of the longest-established car companies in the world.
- › currently offers its customers nine passenger-car series: the CITIGO, FABIA, RAPID, SCALA, OCTAVIA, KAROQ, KODIAQ, as well as the KAMIQ and the SUPERB.
- › delivered more than 1.25 million vehicles to customers around the world in 2018.
- › has been part of Volkswagen Group since 1991. Volkswagen Group is one of the most successful vehicle manufacturers in the world. In association with the Group, ŠKODA AUTO independently develops and manufactures vehicles, as well as components such as engines and transmissions.
- › operates at three locations in the Czech Republic; manufactures in China, Russia, Slovakia, Algeria and India mainly through Group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine and Kazakhstan with local partners.
- › employs over 39,000 people globally and is active in more than 100 markets.
- › is pressing ahead with the transformation from a traditional car manufacturer to the 'Simply Clever company for the best mobility solutions' as part of the ŠKODA 2025 Strategy.

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