Porsche Leipzig gets ready for electromobility

08/07/2020 All signs point forwards at Porsche in Leipzig as preparations for the start of electromobility are underway across the plant and construction is on schedule.

The external work on the new body shop for the third-generation Macan, the first fully electric version, is now complete. The next step is to set up the plant inside the building.

“Over the past few weeks, we have reached some important milestones on our way to becoming an electromobility site," said Gerd Rupp, Chairman of the Executive Board at Porsche Leipzig GmbH. “The period of time between now and the start of production of the next Macan generation is certainly going to be a challenge. However, it is also an opportunity to future-proof the plant and to prove ourselves as a team."

“Since the initial ground-breaking ceremony in February 2000, we have invested more than €1.3 billion to develop the plant," said Albrecht Reimold, Member of the Executive Board for Production and Logistics at Porsche AG. “This expansion project to enable production of purely electric vehicles will ensure that the plant is ready for the future."

The fifth plant extention

To facilitate this project, Porsche is investing more than €600 million at its Leipzig site. In March 2019, the foundation stone was laid for the new 812,675 square-foot body shop.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the official topping-out ceremony was canceled, but Mayor of Leipzig, Burkhard Jung, still visited the site and was shown the latest developments last Friday (July 3).

“Porsche in Leipzig has evolved from an assembly plant to a technology driver for the entire European automotive industry. The milestones for developing the drive technologies of the future are being set right here in Leipzig," said Mayor Burkhard Jung.

In addition to the work on the new body shop, the assembly line is being modified significantly. Porsche is expanding the existing production line and has scheduled this work to fit in with the upcoming summer plant shutdown. When the work is complete, three different drive types will be produced on a single line: gasoline, hybrid and pure electric vehicles. This new setup will give the Porsche Leipzig plant maximum flexibility.

The customer center is already equipped for electric vehicles: This February, Porsche set up a fast charging park called “Porsche Turbo Charging," which offers a total capacity of seven megawatts. The

Leipzig site is therefore home to Europe's most powerful fast charging park, which operates exclusively on electricity from renewable energy sources.

Electromobility is not a completely new concept for the Porsche Leipzig site. The plant has now been producing hybrid vehicles for 10 years. “Our employees have years of experience in dealing with alternative drive types. They can’t wait to start working on electric vehicles in addition to our hybrid models," said Gerd Rupp. “We think it’s important to involve the entire workforce in the upcoming change so we have already initiated the qualification measures for the purely electric Macan."

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