

Communications Audi Brussels

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Royal visit to Audi Brussels

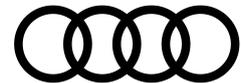
- **His Majesty the King finds out about dual training**
- **Plant Director Patrick Danau: “We are very pleased about the royal visit and gesture of recognition.”**

Brussels, February 12, 2019 – His Majesty the King of Belgium today made an official visit to the Audi plant in Brussels. The reason for the visit is the King’s interest in the company’s dual vocational training system. In Belgium, Audi Brussels is regarded as a pioneer for practical specialist training in the corporate environment. In addition, King Philippe was informed about the first all-electric SUV in the history of Audi. The education ministers from Flanders, the French Community and the Brussels Capital Region – Hilde Crevits, Marie-Martine Schyns and Didier Gosuin – accompanied the head of state on his visit.

At the Audi Brussels training center, King Philippe of Belgium met with students who are undergoing training to become plant and maintenance technicians at the Brussels plant. There are currently 34 apprentices at Audi Brussels. The junior staff come from two partner schools with which the automobile manufacturer has been cooperating since 2012. In the robot training room, the King was shown the technical subjects that the students learn as part of their dual training and what their career prospects are. The royal visitor sought personal contact with the young people, asked many questions and was impressed by the expertise of the course participants.

For some time now, the King has been interested in goal-oriented training for young people in companies. In the past, the Belgian royal family had already initiated a study trip with education experts to the Federal Republic of Germany and Switzerland to find out about the advantages of dual vocational training. This afternoon, a symposium will take place in the Royal Palace of Brussels under the patronage of His Majesty the King. The focus will be on optimizing the integration of young people into the labor market.

Audi Brussels was named as an attractive employer by the Top Employer Institute for the fourth time in succession last week. In particular, the junior staff program and succession planning were decisive factors. Erik Prieels, General Director Human Resources: “When we decided in 2012 to work more closely with two partner schools on training, that was exactly the right decision. We not only offer talented young people sound training in a modern environment, but also the prospect of an attractive job once they have successfully completed their dual training.” The further development for future technicians practiced by Audi Brussels and its two partner



schools in Halle and Woluwé-Saint-Pierre is regarded as a perfect response to the ongoing shortage of skilled workers.

Since the beginning of the dual training program at Audi Brussels almost seven years ago, all successful graduates have been offered jobs as plant technicians or maintenance technicians at the Brussels plant. During the factory tour, King Philippe also met four former apprentices. Today, these skilled employees work in car body production and car assembly.

His Majesty the King was impressed by the transformation process the factory in Brussels has undergone since his last visit in March 2016. In a construction period of around two and a half years, the plant was completely converted to an e-mobility factory and prepared for the production of the Audi e-tron electric SUV. In addition to large-scale structural and construction measures at the plant, there was also an intensive qualification process. Employees received more than 200,000 hours of training to learn the latest technologies required to produce an all-electric car. Patrick Danau, Plant Director at Audi Brussels, sums up: “We are very pleased about this visit and the gesture of recognition from the royal family. The interest shown by His Majesty the King is positive recognition of the great commitment that our employees, our social partners and the Audi management have shown over the past several years in making series production of the Audi e-tron possible.”

Audi Brussels currently employs approximately 3,500 people. Since the start of production, Audi Brussels has been producing the series version of the Audi e-tron in CO₂-neutral plant operation.

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The **Audi Group**, with its brands Audi, Ducati and Lamborghini, is one of the most successful manufacturers of automobiles and motorcycles in the premium segment. It is present in more than 100 markets worldwide and produces at 18 locations in 13 countries. 100 percent subsidiaries of AUDI AG include Audi Sport GmbH (Neckarsulm), Automobili Lamborghini S.p.A. (Sant’Agata Bolognese, Italy) and Ducati Motor Holding S.p.A. (Bologna, Italy).

In 2018, the Audi Group delivered to customers about 1.812 million automobiles of the Audi brand, 5,750 sports cars of the Lamborghini brand and 53,004 motorcycles of the Ducati brand. In the 2017 fiscal year, AUDI AG achieved total revenue of €60.1 billion and an operating profit of €5.1 billion. At present, approximately 90,000 people work for the company all over the world, more than 60,000 of them in Germany. Audi focuses on sustainable products and technologies for the future of mobility.
