



Audi to become first car manufacturer to launch second-generation prelube oils

- **New basic lubrication for steel coils in the press shop saves 40 metric tonnes of oil every year**
- **Volkswagen Group set to roll out this Audi-initiated product development**
- **Board Member for Production, Peter Kössler: “Every contribution to increasing resource efficiency helps”**

Ingolstadt, May 5, 2021 – Audi production processes are set to become even more sustainable in the future: With the start of production of the Audi Q6 e-tron, Audi is introducing the second-generation steel coil lubrication Prelube II. This new product will help to significantly reduce the amount of lubricant required for protecting against corrosion and machining the metal sheets in the press shop. The idea originated from Audi employees in the press shop in Ingolstadt – and has already caught on at the Volkswagen Group.

With the conventional lubrication Prelube I, one gram of oil is applied over every square meter of sheet steel. With the new lubrication class Prelube II, however, just 0.7 grams of oil are required for every square meter – and with almost identical processing parameters. The new oil class creates a protective film on the surface of a metal sheet that is thicker and does not run off. For the reinforcement frame of the roof of the Audi A4, for example, just 2.7 grams of Prelube II are needed instead of the usual 3.9 grams of conventional oil. Extrapolated to all steel components that Audi machines at its production locations in Europe and Mexico, this offers incredible savings potential of around 40 metric tonnes of oil every year compared with the same period in 2018. “At Audi, we’re always thinking about how to make our process steps in production and logistics more sustainable over the long term. Every contribution to increasing resource efficiency and achieving the ambitious targets behind our Audi environmental campaign [Mission:Zero](#) helps,” says Peter Kössler, Board Member for Production and Logistics at AUDI AG.

With the start of production of the Audi Q6 e-tron in Ingolstadt, the Prelube II oil class has been set as the new standard for steel coil lubrication. Audi will then look at the other model series that are currently in production, trial the new product for each and every component and then switch the production process to Prelube II. The idea has caught on: “We have managed to persuade our steel suppliers to switch to Prelube II – a technically challenging process but one that will help to conserve resources over the long term,” says Dr. Ingo Faass from operations management at the press shop in Ingolstadt. “The Volkswagen Group, too, has eagerly adopted our initiative and is planning to introduce the new oil class in Europe as the standard. This will increase the savings potential even more.” The VDA has also been talking about the optimized lubrication, with other manufacturers likely to start using Prelube II in the coming years.



Even lubrication and lower consumption

The Prelube protective film applied by the steel producers prevents corrosion and ensures that the process of forming the flat sheets into individual pieces in the Audi press shop quite literally runs like a well-oiled machine. The first-generation Prelube oils, however, always suffered from the problem that oil would escape from the sheet steel rolls and contaminate the storage areas in the press shop. On top of this, the thin and sometimes unevenly applied lubrication would lead to problems during subsequent machining of the steel panels. A better solution was needed.

To fix these problems, employees from different departments – technology development, the tool and body shop and purchasing – collaborated very closely to develop and approve Prelube II. Compared with Prelube I, this second-generation product offers another key benefit: Since the protective lubrication needs to be washed off thoroughly before the body can be painted, a thinner film of oil on the steel coils is much more environmentally friendly. “In future degreasing processes, we will be able to significantly reduce the amount of cleaner that we use and, in particular, its surfactant content,” says Martin Michallek from Paint Shop Production Planning in Ingolstadt.

Audi’s Mission:Zero campaign – step by step toward sustainable production

Audi bundles all measures for reducing the ecological footprint at its production locations worldwide in Production and Logistics in the Mission:Zero environmental program. The focus is on decarbonization, water use, resource efficiency and biodiversity. One central goal of Mission:Zero is to ensure that all Audi locations are carbon-neutral by 2025.

Detailed information about Audi’s Mission:Zero campaign can be found [here](#).

Corporate Communications

Maximilian Kranl
Spokesperson for Production and Logistics
Tel.: +49 152 58812306
E-mail: maximilian.kranl@audi.de
<https://www.audi-mediacycenter.com/en>

Corporate Communications

Sabrina Kolb
Spokesperson for Procurement and Sustainability
Tel.: +49 841 89-42048
E-mail: sabrina.kolb@audi.de





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 19 locations in 12 countries. 100 percent subsidiaries of AUDI AG include Audi Sport GmbH (Neckarsulm, Germany), Automobili Lamborghini S.p.A. (Sant'Agata Bolognese, Italy), and Ducati Motor Holding S.p.A. (Bologna/Italy).

In 2020, the Audi Group delivered to customers about 1.693 million automobiles of the Audi brand, 7,430 sports cars of the Lamborghini brand and 48,042 motorcycles of the Ducati brand. In the 2020 fiscal year, AUDI AG achieved total revenue of €50.0 billion and an operating profit before special items of €2.7 billion. At present, around 87,000 people work for the company all over the world, 60,000 of them in Germany. With new models, innovative mobility offerings and other attractive services, Audi is becoming a provider of sustainable, individual premium mobility.
