

Inventors Awards

## SEAT rewards employees for patents and innovations

- / The brand filed 42 patent applications in 2014
- / The taskforce on Connectivity was chosen winner of best innovation of the year
- / The awards include a cash prize

**Martorell, 09/06/2015.** - SEAT wants to continue encouraging a culture of innovation in the company and today rewarded the employees who contributed their genius in the form of patents in 2014. A total of 121 inventions were devised by workers, which led to 42 patent registrations. These company distinctions include a cash prize that ranges from 300 euros for national patents, to 1,000 euros for the best patent registrations of the year.

SEAT launched the Inventors Awards programme in 2006 and its current portfolio features 260 patents in force. Of the 42 registrations in 2014, 32 are national and the remaining 10 are international in scope. Technical Centre employees developed 33 of them, Production is responsible for six, and first-timer SEAT Sport patented three inventions.

Prominent among the other patents presented were improvements related to exterior and interior car lighting, quality control of painted surfaces, intelligent external device management from inside the car and boot storage solutions.

The Inventors Awards are a sign of SEAT's commitment to its employees and of how the company promotes their active participation, one of the aspects that enabled the company to be singled out with the prestigious Top Employer distinction. Taking part in the award ceremony were SEAT Chairman of the Executive Committee Jürgen Stackmann; Executive Vice-President for R&D Dr. Matthias Rabe; Commercial Executive Vice-President Dr. Andreas Offermann; Executive Vice-President for Finance and Organisation Holger Kintscher, and Volkswagen Patents Department manager Uwe Wiesner.

**SEAT** is the only company in its sector with the full-range capacity to design, develop, manufacture and market cars in Spain. A member of the Volkswagen Group, the multinational has its headquarters in Martorell (Barcelona), exporting more than 80% of its vehicles, and is present in 75 countries. In 2014 SEAT's invoicing totalled almost 7.5 billion euros, the highest figure in its history, with worldwide sales of 390,500 units.

SEAT Group employs 14,000 professionals at its three production centres – Barcelona, El Prat de Llobregat and Martorell, where it manufactures the highly successful Ibiza and Leon, amongst other models. Additionally, the company produces the Alhambra in Palmela (Portugal), the Mii in Bratislava (Slovakia) and the Toledo in Mladá Boleslav (Czech Republic).



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The Spanish multinational also has a Technical Centre, which celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2015. This 'knowledge hub', bringing together 900 engineers, aims to be the driving force behind innovation for the number one industrial investor in R&D in Spain. In line with its declared commitment to environmental protection, SEAT undertakes and bases its core activity on sustainability, namely reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, energy efficiency, as well as recycling and re-use of resources.

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