## Virtual reality reduces production time of prototypes by 30%



- / SEAT uses this technology to optimise the production and manufacturing processes of its cars
- / It cuts in half the number of prototypes required prior to making a car, which has a positive impact on the final price of the product
- / In the case of the SEAT Ateca more than 800 improvements were made in the virtual stage

## Virtual reality reduces production time of prototypes by 30%

Martorell, 27/09/2016. - We see two technicians wearing virtual reality Oculus glasses in a large empty room. One is wearing gloves and the other is manning the controls. One reaches out to touch something in midair, the other crouches down and they both walk around in circles. We can't see it, but they're analysing the car that will be displayed in a few days at the Paris Motor Show. "What do you think about the different wheel?" "It's fine, perfect" they both conclude.

Just as in the medical, scientific or videogame sectors, virtual reality is also essential in the auto industry, and is a technology that SEAT has been using for the last 20 years: "It helps us optimise our production processes and accurately visualise the product we're going to manufacture" says Javier Díaz, head of the SEAT Prototype Centre. More specifically, the use of this technology has reduced by 30% the production time of prototypes, the stage prior to the launch of a car.

The difference has been substantial. Before, tables measuring more than 10 metres in length to spread out the plans, countless lists of car parts and months of work were needed, but now, thanks to virtual reality, a single computer is all that is necessary to visualize the entire car and make

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improvements much more quickly.

This technology has cut in half the number of prototypes to build prior to launching a model. The optimization of time and other resources has a positive impact on the customer – not only on the precision and quality of the product but on the final price as well.

A good example is the new SEAT Ateca, where the entire process has been followed with virtual reality: "More than three years elapsed since the moment we saw the initial images until the car went on sale. During that time we analysed every centimetre of the car and made numerous decisions to improve it; in particular we implemented more than 800 improvements in the virtual stage", adds Javier.

The two SEAT technicians take off their glasses. For the moment it's still a confidential model. The rest of us will have to wait to see the real car at the upcoming Paris Motor Show.

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**SEAT** is the only company that designs, develops, manufactures and markets 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 over 75 countries. In 2015, SEAT's turnover amounted to over 8.3 billion euros, the highest in its history, and the company achieved worldwide sales of more than 400,000 units for the first time since 2007.

SEAT Group employs more than 14,000 professionals at its three production centres – Barcelona, El Prat de Llobregat and Martorell, where it manufactures the highly successful Ibiza and Leon. Additionally, the company produces the Ateca and the Toledo in the Czech Republic, the Alhambra in

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Portugal and the Mii in Slovakia.

The multinational has a Technical Centre, which operates as a knowledge hub that brings together 1,000 engineers who are focussed on developing innovation for Spain's largest industrial investor in R&D. SEAT already features the latest connectivity technology in its vehicle range and is currently engaged in the company's global digitisation process to promote the mobility of the future.

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