



New appointment

## Dr. Rainer Fessel, new Director of the SEAT plant in Martorell

- / Dr. Fessel will head a factory with more than 8,000 direct employees and a daily output of 2,300 vehicles
- / He joins SEAT from FAW-Volkswagen, where he managed the factory in Chengdu, China
- / The new Director will report to SEAT Vice-president for Production and Logistics

**Martorell, 02/05/2018.** - Dr. Rainer Fessel (Braunschweig, 1966) has been appointed new Director of the SEAT factory in Martorell. Until now, Dr. Fessel headed the plant located in Chengdu (China) of FAW-Volkswagen, a joint-venture founded in 1991 between Chinese automotive manufacturer FAW and the Volkswagen Group. Dr. Fessel is replacing Steffen Reiche, who has been appointed president of Volkswagen de Mexico.

In his new position, Dr. Fessel, who will report to SEAT's Vice-president for Production and Logistics, will be directly responsible for the plant with the highest vehicle output in Spain. Since 2009, production at SEAT Martorell has increased by more than 50%, and today the factory makes four models on three production lines: the new Ibiza and Arona (Line 1), the Leon (Line 2) and the Audi Q3 (Line 3), which will be replaced by the Audi A1 in the second half of this year. In total, more than 8,000 direct employees make up the workforce at this factory, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2018.

Dr. Rainer Fessel holds a PhD in Environmental Sciences from Clausthal University of Technology and a degree in Technical Engineering from the Carolo-Wilhelmina Technical University of Braunschweig. He began his career at Volkswagen in 1995, as an assembly technical officer. After occupying different positions of responsibility at the Wolfsburg factory, in 2010 he was appointed Director of the chassis development department, where he remained until 2013 when he became production Director at the plant in Zwickau. He subsequently transferred to China in June of 2016 to head the FAW-Volkswagen plant in Chengdu.

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 80% of its vehicles, and is present in over 80 countries. In 2017, SEAT obtained an after tax profit of 281 million euros and achieved worldwide sales of nearly 470,000 vehicles.

The SEAT Group employs more than 15,000 professionals and has three production centres – Barcelona, El Prat de Llobregat and Martorell, where it manufactures the highly successful Ibiza, Leon and Arona. Additionally, the company produces the Ateca and the Toledo in the Czech Republic, the Alhambra in 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 digitalisation process to promote the mobility of the future.

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