

SEAT begins construction on a pioneering, one-of-a-kind battery laboratory in Spain

- The new Test Center Energy requires an investment of more than 7 million euros
- Vehicles, cell modules and battery groups can be tested in the facility's 1,500 m² area and 1.3 megawatts of testing capacity
- The future centre will position the company as a benchmark in the development of solutions for electromobility

Martorell, 07/10/2020. SEAT continues to take steps forward in its commitment to electrification. With this aim in mind, the company has begun work on the future Test Center Energy (TCE), the new automotive battery lab that will be located at the SEAT plant in Martorell. With an investment of more than 7 million euros, the new centre will develop and test various energy systems for electric and hybrid vehicles. With a testing capacity that can reach 1.3 MW simultaneously, this facility will become a one-of-a-kind, pioneering electric battery laboratory in Spain. The construction of the TCE is included in the 5 billion euro investment plan recently announced by the company.

The future building, whose construction will be completed in April 2021, will have an area of around 1,500 square metres and include different test spaces for the evaluation of cell modules with lithium-ion technology, medium and high voltage batteries, as well as different chargers used in the entire range of electrified vehicles. There are also plans for several climatic chambers that will enable the batteries and modules to be tested under extreme thermal conditions, simulating the different environments a car may experience during its life cycle. It will also feature a high-tech electronics lab to design and manufacture prototypes and build interfaces for the test systems.

In addition, a workshop will be set up that is specifically designed and equipped to carry out tests on electrified vehicles, with the capacity to work simultaneously with up to six cars. This space will be used to conduct various tests related to the performance of the energy system, functional safety and integration of functions. To this end, artificial vision systems will be incorporated into the instrumentation.

According to SEAT Vice-president for R&D Werner Tietz, **“We are very excited to announce the launch of this project. SEAT has been committed to the electrification of the company for years and the construction of this unique new Test Center Energy in Spain is a firm step in this direction. This new battery lab will enable us to develop the energy systems of future hybrid and electric vehicles, thus contributing to the creation of sustainable electromobility.”**

Ten years of battery research

The new TCE will join the combined low, medium and high voltage battery lab built by the company in 2010. Over the past decade, SEAT has carried out national and international

research projects and conducted more than 2,000 test cases. This facility has two climatic chambers and a test power of 200kW.

Electrifying SEAT

The carmaker is currently undergoing a transformation towards the electrification of the company and its brands. SEAT and CUPRA are going to launch five new electric and plug-in hybrid models in 2020 and 2021, which will be added to the electric version of the commercially available SEAT Mii. The Leon family will have plug-in hybrid electric models under the SEAT and CUPRA brand, manufactured in Martorell; the SEAT Tarraco will have a PHEV version and the CUPRA Formentor, the first model designed and developed for the CUPRA brand, will also have plug-in hybrid electric variants, which will be manufactured in Martorell. In addition, the CUPRA el-Born will join the SEAT Mii electric as the company's second all-electric vehicle. The new Test Center Energy provides the company with its own lab for testing the batteries of the future.

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), sells vehicles under the SEAT and CUPRA brands, while SEAT MÓ covers urban mobility products and solutions. SEAT exports 81% of its vehicles, and is present in more than 75 countries. In 2019, SEAT sold 574,100 cars, posted a profit after tax of 346 million euros and a record turnover of more than 11 billion euros.

SEAT employs over 15,000 professionals and has three production centres – Barcelona, El Prat de Llobregat and Martorell, where it manufactures the Ibiza, Arona and Leon. Additionally, the company produces the Ateca in the Czech Republic, the Tarraco in Germany, the Alhambra in Portugal and the Mii electric, SEAT's first 100% electric car, in Slovakia. These plants are joined by SEAT:CODE, the software development centre located in Barcelona.

SEAT will invest 5 billion euros through to 2025 in R&D projects for vehicle development, specially to electrify the range, and to equipment and facilities. The company aims to make Martorell a zero carbon footprint plant by 2050.

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