

Change in the Board of Management at Audi: Peter Kössler hands over Production and Logistics responsibilities to Gerd Walker

- Volkswagen CEO and Chairman of the Supervisory Board at Audi Herbert Diess: “Thank you to Peter Kössler, who set a new standard with respect to quality, flexibility, and sustainability. Gerd Walker will advance Audi factories’ successful transformation toward e-mobility.”
- General Works Council chairman and acting Supervisory Board chairman Peter Mosch says, “Peter Kössler is Audi through and through. He has always acted for the staff at every location with a great sense of responsibility.”
- Audi CEO Markus Duesmann says, “Peter Kössler set essential courses for digitization and carbon-neutral production around the world. With Gerd Walker, an experienced production expert returns to Ingolstadt.”

Ingolstadt, November 17, 2021 – Peter Kössler, who has been the Board Member for Production and Logistics at AUDI AG since 2017, will go into his planned retirement as of February 1, 2022. His successor will be Gerd Walker, who began his career at Audi in Production and is currently in charge of production at the Volkswagen Group in Wolfsburg.

Volkswagen CEO and Chairman of the Supervisory Board at Audi Herbert Diess says that “Peter Kössler authoritatively led Audi Production in a volatile environment and set new standards, particularly with respect to quality, flexibility, and sustainability. For that, we owe him our appreciation and our thanks. With Gerd Walker, Audi is gaining an accomplished production expert who will advance the transformation of Audi factories worldwide toward electromobility. We wish him success in this important task.”

Peter Mosch, Audi General Works Council chairman and acting chairman of the Supervisory Board: “Peter Kössler is Audi through and through. He is distinguished by his down-to-earth attitude, connection to the region, reliability, and sense of duty toward all our employees, particularly those in production. He fulfilled his responsibilities as a board member with a great sense of responsibility across all locations. He modernized Audi production and, together with colleagues across all levels of the hierarchy, developed a vision for technological and organizational development of that core area with the project ‘P – bietet Zukunft’.

As a co-management partner, Kössler always addressed workers’ representatives and employees as equals. For that reason, in the name of the Audi employees, I say thank you! We wish his successor Mr. Gerd Walker all the best in his start at Audi and, in him, we look forward to welcoming another person with roots in the region onto the Board of Directors. Here’s to a successful collaboration!”

Audi CEO Markus Duesmann summarizes: “In his more than four years as Board Member for Production and Logistics, Peter Kössler set essential courses for Audi’s future viability and promoted the consistent transition of production to digital and flexible processes.” His personal commitment to matters of sustainability also meant that the goal of making all our factories worldwide carbon neutral by 2025 is largely to his credit. “In the name of AUDI AG, I thank Peter Kössler from the bottom of my heart for his tireless commitment. As members of the Board of Directors, we have all accepted his decision to retire with sadness and wish him all the best for the future.”

Peter Kössler began his professional career at AUDI AG in 1986 as a trainee and took over various management functions within Audi Production. From 2007 to 2015, he was plant manager at Audi’s largest location in Ingolstadt. After that, he changed to AUDI HUNGARIA Zrt., where he worked until 2017 as Chairman of the Board of Directors. Additionally, Kössler was a member of the AUDI AG Supervisory Board from 2009 to 2017. As Board Member for Production and Logistics in the years that followed, he introduced electrification of the global Audi production network and provided a clearly defined roadmap for sustainable production worldwide with Audi’s “Mission:Zero” environmental program. Moreover, Peter Kössler made Production more flexible and created a new, competence-oriented matrix organization for that purpose. It was among the largest restructuring projects in the German automotive industry.

With **Gerd Walker**, an experienced production expert will take on Board responsibilities at Audi and will return to Ingolstadt after positions in Wolfsburg and Győr. “Gerd Walker started his career at Audi and he is extremely well acquainted with our brand and our philosophy. He will move Production forward on its future trajectory and take the people along with him. It will be his task to optimally utilize our factories as we ramp up electromobility, achieve climate-neutral production in all factories by 2025, and continue to digitize Production and make it more flexible,” said Audi CEO Markus Duesmann.

A native of Reutlingen in the German state of Baden-Württemberg, he began his career in 1997 as a working student in concept design at Audi. In 2009, he became Board speaker for Production before leaving in 2012 to spend four years in charge of Production at AUDI HUNGARIA. Since 2016, this qualified mechanical engineer has been working in various leadership roles in Wolfsburg. There, he has been in charge of Production at the Volkswagen Group since 2018.

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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 20 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.
