



Mercedes-Benz

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Let's talk Mercedes - Episode 7: Factory 56 - the digital and sustainable car factory

Abstract: Sarah Elsser meets Jörg Burzer, Member of the Board of Management of Mercedes-Benz AG, responsible for Production and Supply Chain Management, and Ulrike Graze, Head of S-Class assembly, Sindelfingen

Flexible, digital, efficient and sustainable: Factory 56 embodies the future of production at Mercedes-Benz and sets new standards for the automotive industry. The concept of Factory 56 will be gradually transferred to all Mercedes-Benz car plants around the world as a blueprint. Host Sarah Elsser meets two Mercedes automobile production experts, Jörg Burzer and Ulrike Graze. They talk about how sustainability, cost efficiency and production quality can be harmoniously connected, and the two experts provide insights into what makes the Factory 56 concept the blueprint for the global Mercedes-Benz Cars production network. The following contains some key take-aways of the talk below, which have been edited for better readability:

- Jörg Burzer on the reasons for Mercedes-Benz' decision to replace the traditional assembly line with a completely new production ecosystem: "We are convinced that the automotive production must change fundamentally. If you'd planned a production facility five years, six years ago, the core topics were efficiency and technology. With the new Factory 56, we have also focused on the future of sustainability, flexibility and digitalisation. Our aim was to develop a completely new approach to the automotive production of the future. And we have implemented this consistently."
- Jörg Burzer on the early involvement of the employees in the planning: "We have involved our employees in the planning from the very beginning - from the start of the conception phase. Basically, we always do that, and it has proved to be very successful. We have many planning experts, but we also get many ideas from our teams - how to improve quality, how to increase efficiency, how to implement digitalization tools in the production process. Our employees were fully integrated, and tremendous ideas emerged from this process."
- Jörg Burzer on Factory 56's lead function in the global Mercedes-Benz Cars production network: "The new Factory 56 in Sindelfingen is not just one single factory. All the innovations and everything we learn in the process will be transferred to our global production network. Some innovations, such as our digital ecosystem, were implemented in parallel at other locations, for example, in our plant in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, or in our production facility in China. But Factory 56 will continue to play a key role in this innovation process, and this is extremely important for us to really be fit for the future."

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* The figures are provided in accordance with the German regulation 'PKW-EnVKV' and apply to the German market only. Further information on official fuel consumption figures and the official specific CO₂ emissions of new passenger cars can be found in the EU guide 'Information on the fuel consumption, CO₂ emissions and energy consumption of new cars', which is available free of charge at all sales dealerships, from DAT Deutsche Automobil Treuhand GmbH and at www.dat.de.

- Ulrike Graze on the importance of flexibility in the production process: “Flexibility is extremely important to us. Thanks to the new production concept, it will be very easy to set up the line for new models to be manufactured in parallel to the S-Class - a second, a third or even a fourth model - at only one weekend. We can therefore implement several different models in our TecLine and adapt the production capacity to the demand in a very flexible way.”
- Ulrike Graze on resource conservation, while at the same time, increasing efficiency: “In comparison to the S-Class models we have built so far, we consume 25% less energy in the production process. And thanks to consistent digitalisation, for example, we also save ten tons of paper per year in Factory 56. In fact we don’t need paper at all for our work. Each station is equipped with screens providing all relevant information. The information can also be called up on a smartphone. This way, we not only reduce our energy and material requirements, we can also react very quickly and increase efficiency.”

For further information about Factory 56, go to [Mercedes me Media](#).

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Mercedes-Benz AG at a glance

Mercedes-Benz AG is responsible for the global business of Mercedes-Benz Cars and Mercedes-Benz Vans with over 173,000 employees worldwide. Ola Källenius is Chairman of the Board of Management of Mercedes-Benz AG. The company focuses on the development, production and sales of passenger cars, vans and services. Furthermore, the company aspires to be leading in the fields of connectivity, automated driving and alternative drives with its forward-looking innovations. The product portfolio comprises the Mercedes-Benz brand with the sub-brands Mercedes-AMG, Mercedes-Maybach and Mercedes me - as well as the smart brand, and the EQ product and technology brand for electric mobility. Mercedes-Benz AG is one of the largest manufacturers of premium passenger cars. In 2019 it sold nearly 2.4 million cars and more than 438,000 vans. In its two business divisions, Mercedes-Benz AG is continually expanding its worldwide production network with over 40 production sites on four continents, while aligning itself to meet the requirements of electric mobility. At the same time, the company is developing its global battery production network on three continents. Sustainable actions play a decisive role in both business divisions. To the company, sustainability means creating value for all stakeholders on a lasting basis: customers, employees, investors, business partners and the society as a whole. The basis for this is the sustainable business strategy of Daimler in which the company takes responsibility for the economic, ecological and social effects of its business activities and looks at the entire value chain.