



SKODA celebrates the 20th anniversary of its association with Volkswagen

- > **Official ceremony on April 15th, 2011, in Mladá Boleslav with high-ranking international representatives from politics and business**
- > **Czech president Václav Klaus, the president of the Senate of the Czech Parliament Milan Štěch, and the former foreign minister of Germany Hans-Dietrich Genscher among the guests**
- > **Volkswagen represented by its CEO Prof. Dr. Martin Winterkorn and other board members of the Group**
- > **Appreciation of a 20-year old success story**

Mladá Boleslav, April 13th, 2011 – In the presence of high-ranking international representatives and personalities from politics and business, as well as representatives of the Volkswagen Group, the Czech automobile manufacturer SKODA will celebrate the 20th anniversary of its association with the Volkswagen Group this coming Friday, April 15th. Participants in the official ceremony at the SKODA's parent plant in Mladá Boleslav will be, among others, Czech president Václav Klaus, the president of the Senate of the Czech Parliament Milan Štěch, and the former foreign minister of Germany Hans-Dietrich Genscher. Among the hosts will be the chairman of the supervisory board of SKODA and chairman of the board of the Volkswagen AG, Prof. Dr. Martin Winterkorn, SKODA's chairman of the board Prof. Dr. h.c. Winfried Vahland, and the chairman of the union OS KOVO and chairman of the works council of SKODA, Jaroslav Povšík.

SKODA boss Winfried Vahland: "We are very excited about the participation of leading political figures and representatives of the Volkswagen Group. The presence of the highest representative of the Czech Republic and other guests of honor is testimony to the high appreciation that the political and business sphere of this country bestow on our company. The participation of Dr. Genscher, who, more than any other politician, personifies the friendship between Czechs and Germans, is a great honor for us as well."

With the ceremony, SKODA acknowledges the special significance of the association with Volkswagen. "The merger was the decisive strategic turning point for the success and rebirth of SKODA during the last 20 years," emphasizes Winfried Vahland. "Since 1991, SKODA has nearly quadrupled sales under the umbrella of the Volkswagen Group and expanded its international presence to more than 100 markets. A one-product manufacturer has turned into a seller with a broad product range. Our employees in particular have contributed to this development in an outstanding manner. The entire company and its employees are proud of this shared path and will continue their efforts in the coming years."

Exactly 20 years ago, SKODA and the Volkswagen Group agreed upon a far-reaching cooperation. On April 16th, 1991, SKODA automobilova a.s. commenced its operations as an autonomous brand of the Volkswagen Group. This started an extremely successful new era in the long history of the company, which the manufacturer will honor appropriately within the course of the ceremony on April 15th.