

Manufacturing and smart factory: Unique cohesion

- **Wolfgang Schanz, Production Manager Audi Böllinger Höfe: “We have retained the craftsmanship from the R8’s manufacturing and added new and intelligent technologies. And our employees immediately transferred all their passion from the R8 to the e-tron GT.”**

Ingolstadt/Neckarsulm, May 15, 2023 – Audi Sport GmbH produces the Audi R8* and the two all-electric models, the Audi e-tron GT quattro* and Audi RS e-tron GT*, at the Böllinger Höfe industrial park in Heilbronn. The small batch production of the Audi subsidiary’s two most powerful and sporty vehicles, not far from its Neckarsulm headquarters, is unique in the Group. “We have managed to put two completely different vehicles on one assembly line: The high-performance R8 sports car with a V10 combustion engine was joined by the e-tron GT, which is an all-electric Gran Turismo,” says Wolfgang Schanz, production manager at Böllinger Höfe.

Planned to be highly flexible from the outset, Audi Sport GmbH is merging the best of two worlds at the end of 2020. “We have retained the craftsmanship from the R8’s manufacturing and added new and intelligent technologies. And our employees immediately transferred all their passion from the R8 to the e-tron GT,” Wolfgang Schanz continues. The independent Böllinger Höfe production facility came into being in 2014 in view of the great sales success of the road and motorsport versions of the Audi R8. Until then, quattro GmbH had built the super sports car within the high-volume structures of the main Neckarsulm plant, distributed across various production halls.

In order to integrate the production of the two e-tron GT models, Audi Sport GmbH expanded and modernized the Böllinger Höfe facility in 2019/2020 – for the most part during ongoing operations. State-of-the-art facilities were built in the body shop and assembly areas. Production competencies were expanded in the areas of electrification, automation and digitalization. This created a unique cohesion of craftsmanship and a smart factory on a production area of around 40,000 square meters. “The R8 was incredibly successful right from the start, and at the same time, it was also highly complex in terms of production; we pushed the limits of what was possible here. Our vision in 2012 was therefore to create a flexible manufacturing facility for quattro GmbH that offers ideal conditions for such highly emotional and highly individualized limited-series vehicles. Today’s successful integration of the e-tron GT into the R8’s manufacturing shows us that we helped lay the foundation for this back in 2012, when we designed the facility,” says Jochen Wagner, Head of Production at quattro GmbH from 2011 to 2016.

**The collective fuel/electric power consumption and emissions values of all models named and available on the German market can be found in the list provided at the end of this text.*

The bodies of the Audi R8 and the Audi e-tron GT are largely manufactured separately: While the mid-engine sports car is built almost exclusively by hand, body construction for the e-tron GT is highly automated. Final assembly of the two performance models takes place on the same assembly line. For the integration of the e-tron GT, assembly was expanded by 20 to 36 work cycles. All employees working in production at Böllinger Höfe are equally proficient in the manufacturing steps of the R8 and the e-tron GT. “We have taken advantage of the opportunities offered by digitization and established many new methods. This starts with the planning of the assembly processes, which has been carried out virtually in many areas,” says production manager Schanz. “In the body shop, for example, we have introduced correlation-free measurement by using digital applications. And assembly aids from the 3D printer also proved to be great assets right away.”

Audi Sport GmbH also builds the chassis for all of the GT racing models of the R8 at the Böllinger Höfe facility in Heilbronn. Thereafter, the most powerful variants of the high-performance sports car are completed with specific components for use on the race track in the Audi Sport customer racing workshop in the Biberach district of Heilbronn and finished for delivery to customers.

Production in the Böllinger Höfe is already CO₂-neutral. Audi uses green electricity and heat from renewable sources – an important milestone for Audi and the Neckarsulm facility. The delivery of the e-tron GT to customers in Europe and the United States is also CO₂-neutral in terms of the overall process. Audi offsets CO₂ emissions that cannot currently be avoided through renewable energy sources with carbon credits from certified climate conservation projects. Audi is thus making an important contribution to Mission:Zero – the premium manufacturer’s environmental program for consistently sustainable production.

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The Audi Group is one of the most successful manufacturers of automobiles and motorcycles in the premium and luxury segment. The brands Audi, Bentley, Lamborghini, and Ducati produce at 22 locations in 13 countries. Audi and its partners are present in more than 100 markets worldwide.

In 2022, the Audi Group delivered 1.61 million Audi vehicles, 15,174 Bentley vehicles, 9,233 Lamborghini vehicles, and 61,562 Ducati motorcycles to customers. In the 2022 fiscal year, AUDI Group achieved a total revenue of €61.8 billion and an operating profit of €7.6 billion. Worldwide, more than 87,000 people worked for the Audi Group in 2022, over 54,000 of them at AUDI AG in Germany. With its attractive brands, new models, innovative mobility offerings and groundbreaking services, the group is systematically pursuing its path toward becoming a provider of sustainable, individual, premium mobility.

Fuel/electric power consumption and emissions values of the models named above:****Audi R8 Coupé V10 performance quattro**

Combined fuel consumption in l/100 km: 13.1–12.9;
combined CO₂ emissions in g/km: 297–293

Audi R8 Spyder V10 performance quattro

Combined fuel consumption in l/100 km: 13.9–13.8;
combined CO₂ emissions in g/km: 316–313

Audi e-tron GT quattro

Combined electric power consumption in kWh/100 km: 21.6–19.6;
combined CO₂ emissions in g/km: 0

Audi RS e-tron GT

Combined electric power consumption in kWh/100 km: 22.1–19.8;
combined CO₂ emissions in g/km: 0

***The indicated consumption and emissions values were determined according to the legally specified measuring methods. Since September 1, 2017, type approval for certain new vehicles has been performed in accordance with the Worldwide Harmonized Light Vehicles Test Procedure (WLTP), a more realistic test procedure for measuring fuel consumption and CO₂ emissions. Since September 1, 2018, the WLTP has gradually replaced the New European Driving Cycle (NEDC). Due to the more realistic test conditions, the consumption and CO₂ emission values measured are in many cases higher than the values measured according to the NEDC. Additional information about the differences between WLTP and NEDC is available at www.audi.de/wltp.*

At the moment, it is still mandatory to communicate the NEDC values. In the case of new vehicles for which type approval was performed using WLTP, the NEDC values are derived from the WLTP values. WLTP values can be provided voluntarily until their use becomes mandatory. If NEDC values are indicated as a range, they do not refer to one, specific vehicle and are not an integral element of the offer. They are provided only for the purpose of comparison between the various vehicle types. Additional equipment and accessories (attachment parts, tire size, etc.) can change relevant vehicle parameters, such as weight, rolling resistance and aerodynamics and, like weather and traffic conditions as well as individual driving style, influence a vehicle's electric power consumption, CO₂ emissions and performance figures.

Further information on official fuel consumption figures and the official specific CO₂ emissions of new passenger cars can be found in the "Guide on the fuel economy, CO₂ emissions and power consumption of all new passenger car models," which is available free of charge at all sales dealerships and from DAT Deutsche Automobil Treuhand GmbH, Hellmuth-Hirth-Str. 1, 73760 Ostfildern-Scharnhausen, Germany (www.dat.de).

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