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ŠKODA supports the University of Economics, Prague (VŠE)

- > Three-year cooperation agreement with the VŠE signed
- > Research activities of the university to be supported
- > Reciprocal exchange between theory und practice

Prague/Mladá Boleslav, May 5th, 2011 – ŠKODA and the renowned University of Economics, Prague (Vysoká Škola Ekonomická – VŠE) have agreed to a far-reaching cooperation. Today, the head of ŠKODA, Prof. Dr. h.c. Winfried Vahland, the ŠKODA board member for human resources, Bohdan Wojnar, and the university president, Prof. Ing. Richard Hindls, CSc., Dr. h.c., signed the cooperation agreement in Prague. The university in Prague is considered the leading university of the Czech Republic in the area of economics and management and currently provides education for more than 19,000 students.

According to the agreement, the Czech automobile manufacturer will support the research and educational activities of the university in one focal area in the coming three years. In this effort, the students will also gain insights into the company. Furthermore, the university will be provided with a ŠKODA Superb for representative purposes.

On the occasion of the signing of the agreement, the chairman of the board of ŠKODA, Prof. Dr. h.c. Winfried Vahland, explained the benefits of the cooperation: "There is already a multifaceted exchange between our company and academic institutions and universities on many levels today. This exchange is good for both sides and stimulates both practice and theory equally. As an automobile manufacturer with its roots in the Czech Republic, the cooperation with the leading Czech economic university is not just close to our hearts, but also an important component within the framework of our growth strategy. We want to pursue strong international growth in the coming years. For that purpose, we need the best thinkers, know-how, and competence." Prior to this statement, Vahland had presented the central components of the ŠKODA growth strategy within the course of an extensive speech to the students.

The board member for human resources, Bohdan Wojnar, emphasized the strategic orientation of the partnership: "The University of Economics is a strategic partner for our company in the educational area. The deepened cooperation brings ŠKODA even closer to the students and future job applicants. As the leading employer in the Czech Republic we're offering attractive jobs and outstanding career opportunities."

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ŠKODA will already create several hundred new jobs this year, primarily in connection with foreign projects and the development of new vehicles. Experts are sought for many areas of the company: From the development department to production to sales and marketing. The job descriptions include, among others, design engineers, experts for electric drives, chassis and engine developers, series and project planners, product managers, sales and marketing professionals, as well as procurement and IT specialists.

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