



2015 ŠKODA CELEBRATES THE YEAR OF ANNIVERSARIES



ŠKODA celebrates 120 years of corporate history and 110 years of automobile production. In 1905, the company founders Václav Laurin and Václav Klement (L&K) presented their first automobile: the legendary Voiturette A. The same year, the publication of the first official photo in the 29 October edition of the "Allgemeinen Automobil-Zeitung" journal is considered the birth of the automobile. The same photo, supplemented with additional details, was also published on the cover of the Czech weekly magazine "Sport a Hry" ("Sports and Games") at the end of 1905. Bohemia became one of the cradles of the automobile.

Following the Velvet Revolution in 1989, ŠKODA needed a strong strategic partner. The merger with the Volkswagen Group in 1991 marked a decisive step in the brand becoming one of the greatest success stories of recent automotive history. ŠKODA's annual sales increased six fold between 1991 and 2014.

- 1865–2015 ● **150 YEARS**
FROM THE BIRTHDAY OF THE
COMPANY FOUNDING FATHER
VÁCLAV LAURIN
- 1895–2015 ● **120 YEARS**
OF CORPORATE HISTORY
AND START OF BICYCLE
PRODUCTION
- 1905–2015 ● **110 YEARS**
OF AUTOMOBILE PRODUCTION
- 2015 ● **MORE THAN 17 MILLION
VEHICLES** MANUFACTURED
UP TO NOW



ŠKODA AUTO:
THE GLOBAL PLAYER AND
ONE OF JUST FOUR MOST
TRADITIONAL CAR PRODUCERS
WHICH STILL MANUFACTURE
AUTOMOBILES.

FIRST AUTOMOBILE: VOITURETTE A WITH 7 HP

The construction of the Voiturette A followed the then modern construction principle with an engine radiator mounted in front of the engine and an inclined steering column. A water-cooled, 7-hp (5.2 kW) two-cylinder engine with a displacement of 1,005 ccm provided the power. The top speed was around 40 km/h. The transmission had three gears and one reverse gear, the clutch was lined with leather. The vehicle weighed approximately half a tonne. L&K produced at least 44 cars Voiturette A.



VÁCLAV LAURIN 27/09 1865—4/12 1935

Václav Laurin, Bohemian mobility pioneer and one of the two ŠKODA AUTO founding fathers, would have turned 150 on 27 September. Together with his business partner Václav Klement they founded ŠKODA AUTO's predecessor company Laurin&Klement (L&K) in 1895. Their slogan was: "Only the best is good enough for our customers". L&K initially made bicycles, motorcycles and later, from 1905, automobiles. In 1925, i.e. 90 years ago, the company merged with Pilsner engineering company ŠKODA. On 4 December we commemorate 80 years from the moment Czech famous engineer, Václav Laurin passed away.

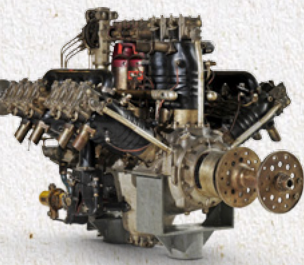
DID YOU KNOW THAT...?

ŠKODA changed its logo only six times during the 120 years of existence.



DID YOU KNOW THAT...?

ŠKODA AUTO was always considered a technical innovator. Exactly 80 years ago, the revolutionary prototype ŠKODA 935 was introduced to prove the brand's expertise in aerodynamics. The car, equipped with a boxer engine in front of the rear axle, is currently in the final stage of its restoration.



DID YOU KNOW THAT...?

ŠKODA AUTO was also successful in aircraft engineering. The company manufactured aircraft engines L&K Lorraine Diétrich in the 1920s: eight and twelve cylinder engines with output of 400 and 450 HP. The twelve cylinder masterpiece had a W shape arrangement with four cylinders in three rows; the maximum output was delivered at 1850 revs per minute. These engines were mounted for example in the Czech aeroplanes Letov Š-12 and ŠB-16.

RENDEZVOUS WITH HISTORY

