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Volkswagen Group honors its best suppliers

Board of Management members present Volkswagen Group Award 2008 on Ibiza

Wolfsburg / Ibiza, May 25, 2008 – The “Volkswagen Group Award 2008” was presented to the Volkswagen Group’s top suppliers on the Spanish island of Ibiza yesterday evening. Prof. Martin Winterkorn, Chairman of the Board of Management of Volkswagen Aktiengesellschaft, and Francisco J. Garcia Sanz, Member of the Board of Management of Volkswagen Aktiengesellschaft with responsibility for ‘Procurement’, presented a total of 15 international winners with their awards for outstanding achievement.

“With its broad model spectrum, the Volkswagen Group is unique in the automobile industry. Our eight independent brands set a new sales record last year, delivering almost 6.2 million vehicles to customers worldwide. I am therefore proud to report that our Group is on course. This success is in part attributable to cooperation with our global partners and suppliers,” Prof. Martin Winterkorn said as he welcomed 200 invited guests and suppliers’ representatives. “I address our thanks in particular to the representatives of this year’s award winners and their employees all over the world for their dedication and commitment,” Winterkorn continued.

He underlined that success is not primarily measured by a company’s size, but above all by its innovative strength. “When we say that Volkswagen is taking the offensive we first and foremost mean customer-oriented innovations that bring genuine added value and are affordable. We need able and efficient system and innovation partners to bring such new developments to series and to the new growth markets. All our suppliers are therefore called on to profit from the uniqueness of the Volkswagen Group and join us in harnessing this enormous global business potential,” Winterkorn added.

Addressing representatives from a total of 100 Group suppliers invited to the event, Francisco J. Garcia Sanz, Board member responsible for procurement, said: “With our unique brand world we are aiming to reach very diverse customer groups on global sales markets.” He pointed out that the solutions for markets such as China or India were not the same as those for the USA or Western Europe. Low-cost solutions were becoming increasingly important for the growth markets of India and Russia in particular. This called for flexible and “breathing” supplier relations in new markets as well as proximity to Volkswagen Group production facilities.

“Our prime interest is new ideas that can be realized swiftly and economically by all partners,” Garcia Sanz added. This objective thus sets clear criteria for a premium

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Volkswagen Group supplier. According to Garcia Sanz: "We need competitive suppliers with a worldwide presence. We need partners with high development competence and innovative strength as well as companies with competent project management." He added it was important to meet the Volkswagen Group's quality standards and to strive for continuous advances in productivity. Given scarce resources and capacities, exceptional performance must also take the form of delivery reliability and a swift response. "And it goes without saying that we expect our suppliers to adopt a positive approach to environmental protection and sustainability," Garcia Sanz also commented.

Congratulating this year's award winners, Garcia Sanz said: "It is a particular honor for Volkswagen to cooperate with committed companies and to pay tribute to outstanding achievements with the Volkswagen Group Award. This award for our top suppliers is a visible expression of our successful working partnership."

The Volkswagen Group Award recognizes the overall entrepreneurial performance of a supplier. The 15 award winners have proved exceptionally successful in meeting the requirements Europe's leading automaker places on its premium suppliers, who thus assist the Volkswagen Group and its brands in meeting corporate goals as well as contributing to the realization of the growth and globalization strategy.

The 15 winners of the "Volkswagen Group Award 2008" are as follows:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Registered office</u>	<u>Country</u>
Robert Bosch GmbH	Reutlingen	Germany
ZF Friedrichshafen AG	Friedrichshafen	Germany
Hella KGaA Hueck & Co.	Lippstadt	Germany
Sumitomo Electric Industries Ltd.	Tokyo	Japan
BASF SE	Ludwigshafen	Germany
TAKATA-PETRI AG	Aschaffenburg	Germany
Gestamp Automoción	Abadino	Spain
Umicore AG & Co. KG	Hanau	Germany
Edscha Bohemia s.r.o.	Kamenice nad Lipou	Czech Republic
DDB Group Germany GmbH	Berlin	Germany
Eugen Wexler GmbH & Co.	Lauf a.d. Pegnitz	Germany
Lydall Inc.	Manchester, CT.	USA
Rane Engine Valve Ltd.	Chennai	India
HBPO GmbH	Lippstadt	Germany
FANUC LTD.	Oshino-muro	Japan

Last year, the Volkswagen Group purchased goods and services to the value of some 72 billion euros. The Group cooperates with approximately 26,000 suppliers worldwide.

Images of the event are available from www.volkswagen-media-services.com

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