

Pressemitteilungen

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On 14 April 1927, the first mass-produced Volvo car rolled off the production line at the Lundby factory in Göteborg. Now, 85 years later, the Volvo Group is one of the world's largest manufacturers of commercial vehicles and Volvo Car Corporation sells almost 500,000 cars each year.

At 10 in the morning on 14 April 1927, sales manager Hilmer Johansson drove the first mass-produced ÖV4 model through the factory gates in Lundby in Göteborg. Now, 85 years later, the same model will pass through exactly the same gates to celebrate Volvo's birthday. Stefan Jacoby, President and CEO of Volvo Car Corporation, and Olof Persson, President and CEO of the Volvo Group, will be behind the wheel. "It's a fantastic car, but it's easy to see how much has changed over the last 85 years," says Stefan Jacoby, who recently premiered the new V40 at the Geneva Motor Show.

The Volvo Group and Volvo Car Corporation are two companies with a long shared history. However, what was at that time one company began as a very unpromising project, because Volvo's founders Assar Gabrielsson and Gustaf Larson had no direct experience of cars or the automotive industry. During its first year of production, Volvo sold a very modest 300 cars. However, in the following year business really began to take off, when the company also started manufacturing trucks and buses. Even back then Volvo realised that the key to success lay in exports. "Our roots are still very important to us. Around 30,000 of the Volvo Group's 120,000 employees work in Sweden, but 95 percent of our products are sold outside the country," says Olof Persson. The equivalent figures for Volvo Car Corporation are 14,500 employees in Sweden out of a worldwide total of 21,500. Around 87 percent of all Volvo Car Corporation's sales take place outside Sweden.

In 1999, the Volvo Group sold its car business. Since then, the two companies have continued to grow in different directions. Volvo Car Corporation is now in the premium segment and last year sold around 450,000 cars in 120 countries, with the USA as its single largest market. The Volvo Group produces trucks under the Volvo, Renault Trucks, Mack and UD Trucks brands, together with buses, construction equipment, drive systems for marine and industrial applications and components for aircraft engines. With a turnover of SEK 310 billion, the Volvo Group is the world's second largest manufacturer of heavy trucks and Sweden's largest company. The group has production sites in 20 countries and sales organisations in 190.

As a result of Volvo's birthday Volvo Museum in Gothenburg will keep an open house at 11.00-16.00, April 14. If the weather is fine, a parade to the city center with both new and vintage vehicles will be organized.

Link to Volvo Cars Heritage:

<http://www.volvocars.com/intl/top/community/heritage/Pages/default.aspx>

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