

Press Release

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Volvo Cars celebrates 90 years at Techno Classica

Volvo Cars, the premium car maker, celebrates its 90th anniversary with a display of modern and historic models at the world's biggest show for classic vehicles, Techno Classica, in Essen, Germany, 5-9 April.

On April 14, 1927, the first Volvo Car drove out of the factory gate in Gothenburg, Sweden.

However, the Volvo Cars stand at Techno Classica doesn't showcase only the company's history. It also features the company's latest product, the all-new XC60, launched at the Geneva Motor Show just last month. Techno Classica will be the first German car show for the new XC60.

The new car replaces Volvo's highly successful original XC60, which in the nine years since its launch became the bestselling premium mid-sized SUV in Europe, with nearly a million units sold globally. The XC60 today represents around 30 per cent of Volvo's total global sales.

"We have a strong heritage in designing stylish and dynamic SUVs that offer the latest in technology. The new XC60 will be no exception. It's the perfect car for an active lifestyle, and it represents the next step in our transformation plan," said Håkan Samuelsson, President and Chief Executive, Volvo Car Group.

The six classic Volvo models exhibited at Techno Classica will be:

1934 PV654

The Volvo PV600 series came in 1929, only two years after the little Swedish car company had started its operations. It had a distinct American-inspired design and a powerful 3.0-litre straight-six-cylinder engine. A seven-seater version was also made, mainly for taxi purposes.

Approximately 4,400 examples of the Volvo PV600 series were made during the model's eight-year lifespan.

1957 PV444

The PV444 was called "the little Volvo" when it was first shown in Stockholm in 1944. However, due to material shortages after WWII, production didn't start until 1947. For the first time, Volvo could offer a model that was within reach for customers with an ordinary income, and the demand was much bigger than the supply.

The PV444 was the first Volvo model to be exported to the USA. The first car came to the port in Long Beach, California, in 1955 – and only two years later, Volvo was the Sunshine State's second-biggest import brand.

1800 S

The Volvo P1800 is probably the most iconic Volvo model of all time.

It became known worldwide as "The Saint's car" in the 1960s TV show of the same name, starring Roger Moore as Simon Templar.

Manufactured from 1961 until 1973, the P1800 is a highly sought-after classic among collectors today.

1968 145 estate

At the end of November 1967, Volvo presented the third variant in what was now developing into a complete car family known as the 140 series – the Volvo 145.

The Volvo 145 was a five-door estate with a rear section that had a virtually vertical tailgate. Everybody agreed that this was a safe, comfortable and extremely practical and spacious car. The cargo volume was more than two cubic metres and the floor of the cargo area was completely flat.

The Volvo 145 quickly became an extremely popular estate and played an increasingly important role within the 140 series.

262C

The Volvo 262C was launched at the Geneva Motor Show in March 1977, as a part of Volvo's 50th anniversary. It was the result of a cooperation between Volvo and Bertone, designed in Sweden but assembled in Turin, Italy.

This four-seater coupe – with the radical roofline that became the 262C's trademark – was based on the two-door, six-cylinder 262 saloon. Custom stampings were done by Bertone, and the Italian firm also provided the custom interiors in pleated leather, elm veneer and deep-pile carpeting.

The 262C was powered by the PRV (Peugeot-Renault-Volvo) fuel-injected B27F overhead-cam V6, producing 140 bhp. A total of 6,622 cars were built between 1977 and 1981.

850 R

The 850 R was the high-performance version of the successful Volvo 850. It was launched in 1996 and was the successor to the 850 T5-R.

The transversely mounted, 2.3-litre, inline five-cylinder engine produced 250 hp, powering the car to 100 km/h in just 7.5 seconds. The intense red colour was unique to the 850 R, but the car could also be ordered in five other colours, depending on the market.

The 850 R was produced both as a saloon and an estate, and is now a much sought-after "youngtimer" classic.

-ends-

Volvo Car Group in 2016

For the 2016 financial year, Volvo Car Group recorded an operating profit of 11,014 MSEK (6,620 MSEK in 2015). Revenue over the period amounted to 180,672 MSEK (164,043 MSEK). For the full year 2016, global sales reached a record 534,332 cars, an increase of 6.2 per cent versus 2015. The record sales and operating profit cleared the way for Volvo Car Group to continue investing in its global transformation plan.

About Volvo Car Group

Volvo has been in operation since 1927. Today, Volvo Cars is one of the most well-known and respected car brands in the world, with sales of 534,332 cars in 2016 in about 100 countries. Volvo Cars has been under the ownership of the Zhejiang Geely Holding (Geely Holding) of China since 2010. It formed part of the Swedish Volvo Group until 1999, when the company was bought by Ford Motor Company of the US. In 2010, Volvo Cars was acquired by Geely Holding.

As of December 2016, Volvo Cars had more than 31,000 employees worldwide. Volvo Cars' head office, product development, marketing and administration functions are mainly located in Gothenburg, Sweden. Volvo Cars' head office for China is located in Shanghai. The company's main car production plants are located in Gothenburg (Sweden), Ghent (Belgium), Chengdu and Daqing (China), while engines are manufactured in Skövde (Sweden) and Zhangjiakou (China), and body components in Olofström (Sweden).

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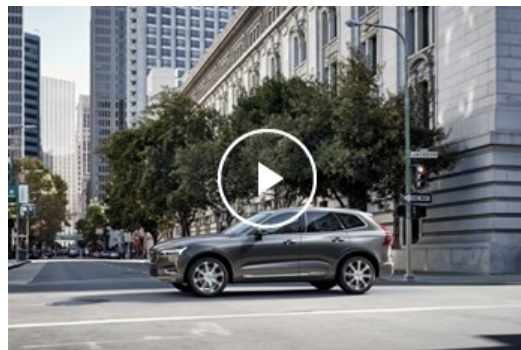
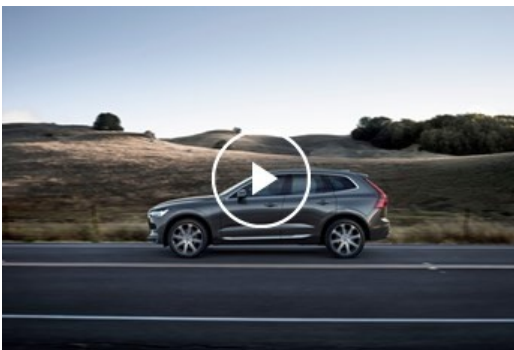
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