



Mercedes-Benz

Press information

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## Consistent implementation of the electric strategy of Mercedes-Benz Vans: Next generation eSprinter to be built at three plants

- New eSprinter will be produced in North Charleston, SC/USA, Düsseldorf and Ludwigsfelde, Germany, successively starting second half of 2023
- Mercedes-Benz to invest around €50 million in each plant as part of electrification shift
- Next generation of the eSprinter to help develop new markets with a focus on the USA and Canada
- With the next generation eSprinter, Mercedes-Benz Vans implements next stage of its electrification plan in pursuit of its 'Lead in Electric Drive' plan

Stuttgart, Germany – Management and employee representatives at Mercedes-Benz have struck an agreement to build the next generation eSprinter van, which is based on the newly developed [Electric Versatility Platform](#), at three locations: North Charleston, South Carolina, Düsseldorf and Ludwigsfelde in Germany. Based on a new platform announced at the end of 2020, the next generation of the eSprinter targets new customer segments and markets, including the USA and Canada. Mercedes-Benz is investing around €350 million in the next generation eSprinter. The necessary conversion measures in plants and retraining is currently in preparation.

"The future of mobility is electric in the transport sector, especially in the last mile delivery segment. Our share of battery-electric vehicles is constantly growing. We have consistently aligned our strategy accordingly, and underline with our strategic pillar 'Lead in Electric Drive' our leadership aim in electric mobility in the vans sector," says Marcus Breitschwerdt, Head of Mercedes-Benz Vans. "With our newly developed Electric Versatility Platform, we are significantly expanding our offering in the commercial series. With production of the next generation of the eSprinter in the USA and in Germany, we ensure market-oriented production. In total, we are investing around €350 million into the next generation of the eSprinter."

"We have decided to expand the next generation of the Mercedes-Benz eSprinter to a total of three locations in our strong global production network, thus creating optimal synergies. We will benefit from our experience which we have already built up very successfully in the production of electric and conventionally driven vans on a line at our plant in Düsseldorf. In the future, we will be able to quickly meet the ever-increasing demand for electrically driven vans and, thanks to our intelligent and flexible production, be able to respond very precisely to the requirements of the different markets and make optimum use of our capacities," says Dr. Ingo Ettischer, Head of Production at Mercedes-Benz Vans. "For the adjustment of production, we will invest

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Board: Ola Källenius (Chairman), Jörg Burzer, Renata Jungo Brüngger, Sajjad Khan, Sabine Kohleisen, Markus Schäfer, Britta Seeger, Harald Wilhelm

Further information on official fuel consumption and the official specific CO2 emissions of new passenger cars can be found in the "Guide on Fuel Consumption, CO2 Emissions and Electricity Consumption" of new passenger cars, which is available free of charge at all points of sale and at Deutsche Automobil Treuhand GmbH under [www.dat.de](http://www.dat.de).

around €50 million in each of the three plants. We will start production of the eSprinter successively from the second half of 2023.”

Sustainable production is another important step on the road toward CO2 neutrality. As early as 2022, Mercedes-Benz’ own passenger car and van plants will produce CO2-neutral worldwide in line with the targets of Ambition 2039. Mercedes-Benz will seek to avoid or cut emissions generated from vehicle production or from the energy supply used by the plants. Ettischer: ”At Mercedes-Benz Vans, we are pursuing CO2-neutral production and from 2022 we will only use electric energy from renewable sources in all our own plants.”

The current generation of the eSprinter is already being built in Düsseldorf together on one line with conventionally driven Sprinter models. The principle of manufacturing both drive train variants will also be implemented at the plants in Charleston and Ludwigsfelde. In this way, it will be possible to respond very precisely to the respective market needs in the future. In addition to the previously available variant as a panel van, the next generation of the eSprinter will also be produced as a chassis model and will thus serve as a basic vehicle for, among other things, ambulances, motorhomes or refrigerated transporters.

“Our North Charleston plant will be the first to bring the next generation of the eSprinter to the United States,” said Arnhelm Mittelbach, President & CEO of Mercedes-Benz Vans, LLC. “We are proud that we have earned the trust of the company to produce this vehicle as an important pillar of the Mercedes-Benz Vans production network. We are also grateful for the continued support from the state of South Carolina and Charleston County in the development of our facility and our team who have worked hard to reach this milestone in our growth. The next generation eSprinter will support a sustainable future for the company and the environment, and we look forward to this investment in our Charleston team and facility.”

## About the plants

The Mercedes-Benz **Düsseldorf** plant will celebrate its 60th anniversary in 2022. At the end of 2020, around 6,000 employees were employed in Düsseldorf. This is where the Sprinter panel van and the current generation of the eSprinter run off the production line.

The Mercedes-Benz plant in **Ludwigsfelde** celebrated its 30th anniversary in February this year. At the end of 2020, around 2,000 employees produced the chassis models of the Sprinter.

The Mercedes-Benz plant in Ladson/North **Charleston, SC**, was founded 15 years ago as an assembly plant for Sprinter and Metris vans, and was expanded to part-by-part production for Sprinter vans in 2018. By the end of 2020, the Plant in Charleston had about 1,600 employees.

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**Mercedes-Benz AG at a glance** Mercedes-Benz AG is responsible for the global business of Mercedes-Benz Cars and Mercedes-Benz Vans with more than 170,000 employees worldwide. Ola Källenius is Chairman of the Executive Board of Mercedes-Benz AG. The company focuses on the development, production and distribution of passenger cars and vans as well as vehicle-related services. In addition, the company strives for a leading position in electro mobility and vehicle software. The product portfolio includes the Mercedes-Benz brand with the sub-brands Mercedes-AMG, Mercedes-Maybach, Mercedes-EQ, G-Class and the smart brand. The Mercedes me brand offers access to Mercedes-Benz’s digital services. Mercedes-Benz AG is one of the world’s largest manufacturers of luxury cars. In 2020, around 2.1 million passenger cars and nearly 375,000 vans were sold. In these two business areas, Mercedes-Benz AG is continuously developing its worldwide production network with around 35 production sites on four continents, focusing on the requirements of electro mobility. At the same time, the global battery production network will be built and expanded on three continents. Sustainability is

the guiding principle of the Mercedes-Benz strategy and means for the company to create lasting value for all stakeholders: for customers, employees, investors, business partners and the company as a whole. The basis for this is Daimler's sustainable corporate strategy. In this way, the company assumes responsibility for the economic, environmental and social impact of its business activities and has an eye on the entire value chain.