



Mercedes-Benz

Press Information

March 28, 2022

## Axel Bense to take over management of the Mercedes-Benz Vans plant in Charleston on April 1, 2022

### Charleston, SC, USA

Axel Bense, previously Head of Mercedes-Benz Manufacturing Thailand, is to become President and CEO at the Mercedes-Benz Vans plant in North Charleston, SC, USA as of April 1, 2022. He will succeed Arnhelm Mittelbach, who has been in this position since the beginning of 2019 and will take over a new position at Mercedes-Benz Cars in Stuttgart. There will be a period of transition throughout the month of April prior to Arnhelm's departure to Stuttgart.

Dr. Ingo Ettischer, Head of Mercedes-Benz Vans Operations: "With Axel Bense, our Van operations management board is completed by another internationally experienced production expert for the challenging task. I am very much looking forward to working with him in the future and wish him every success in his new role!"

Axel Bense joined the then DaimlerChrysler AG at the Bremen plant in 1999 as a graduate process engineer, and in 2001 he was responsible as project manager for the construction and commissioning of the new paint shop at the Mercedes-Benz plant in Tuscaloosa. After various management positions at the Bremen, Sindelfingen, and Tuscaloosa sites; including managing the body shop planning for Mercedes-Benz globally, he took over production management at Mercedes-Benz Truck Vostok (MBTV) at the beginning of 2011. In this function, Axel was responsible for the construction and ramp-up of the new plant in Chelny, Russia. In 2015 he returned to Sindelfingen to lead the project "New Car Plant Russia". In 2017, as CEO, he took over the management and development of the new production company Mercedes-Benz Manufacturing RUS (MBMR) in Moscow. In 2020, Axel moved on to Thailand where he took over management at Mercedes-Benz Manufacturing Thailand.

Departing President and CEO Arnhelm Mittelbach began his professional career in 2002 at the then DaimlerChrysler AG in Bremen. After various management tasks in multiple production trades of the Mercedes-Benz Operations, including at the locations Bremen, Sindelfingen and East London (South Africa), Mittelbach moved to VAN and took over the management of the plant in Charleston at the beginning of 2019.

"In this role, together with the team on site, Arnhelm succeeded in completing the ramp-up of the plant and the VS30 Sprinter and then stabilizing and repositioning the plant in parallel with the challenges of the global

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Chairman of the Supervisory Board: Bernd Pischetsrieder

Board of Management: Ola Källenius, Chairman; Jörg Burzer, Renata Jungo Brüngger, Sabine Kohleisen, Markus Schäfer, Britta Seeger, Hubertus Troska, Harald Wilhelm

The figures are provided in accordance with the German regulation 'PKW-EnVKV' and apply to the German market only. Further information on official fuel consumption figures and the official specific CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of new passenger cars can be found in the EU guide 'Information on the fuel consumption, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and energy consumption of new cars', which is available free of charge at all sales dealerships, from DAT Deutsche Automobil Treuhand GmbH and at [www.dat.de](http://www.dat.de).

pandemic,” said Ingo Ettischer. “I would like to thank Arnhelm for this outstanding achievement and wish him, also on behalf of the entire team, all the best for his continued career with Mercedes-Benz. “



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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 around 172,000 employees worldwide. Ola Källenius is Chairman of the Board of Management of Mercedes-Benz AG. The company focuses on the development, production and sales of passenger cars, vans and vehicle-related services. Furthermore, the company aspires to be the leader in the fields of electric mobility and vehicle software. The product portfolio comprises the Mercedes-Benz brand with the brands of Mercedes-AMG, Mercedes-Maybach, Mercedes-EQ, G-Class and the smart brand. The Mercedes me brand offers access to the digital services from Mercedes-Benz. Mercedes-Benz AG is one of the world's largest manufacturers of luxury passenger cars. In 2021 it sold around 1.9 million passenger cars and nearly 386,200 vans. In its two business segments, Mercedes-Benz AG is continually expanding its worldwide production network with around 35 production sites on four continents, while gearing itself to meet the requirements of electric mobility. At the same time, the company is constructing and extending its global battery production network on three continents. As sustainability is the guiding principle of the Mercedes-Benz strategy and for the company itself, this means creating lasting value for all stakeholders: for customers, employees, investors, business partners and society as a whole. The basis for this is the sustainable business strategy of the Mercedes-Benz Group. The company thus takes responsibility for the economic, ecological and social effects of its business activities and looks at the entire value chain.