



Mercedes-Benz

Press Information

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Mercedes-Benz Announces Key Leadership Changes at Mercedes-Benz Vans, LLC in Charleston

- Axel Bense, currently serving as CEO of Mercedes-Benz Vans, LLC will transition to the role of CEO at the Mercedes-Benz facility in Jawor, Poland, effective March 1, 2025.
- Johannes Kellerman, currently serving as Head of Operations at Mercedes-Benz in Ludwigsfelde, Germany, will succeed Axel as CEO of Mercedes-Benz Vans, LLC.

Charleston, SC – Mercedes-Benz is pleased to announce two significant leadership appointments that will enhance operational excellence across its global production network.

Effective March 1, 2025, Axel Bense, currently serving as CEO and President of Mercedes-Benz Vans, LLC in Charleston, SC will transition to the role of CEO responsible for plant management and site operations at the Mercedes-Benz facility in Jawor, Poland.

Axel Bense joined DaimlerChrysler AG in 1999 and has since held various leadership positions across multiple locations, including Bremen, Tuscaloosa, and Naberezhnye Chelny. His notable achievements include spearheading the construction of the new paint shop in Tuscaloosa and leading the establishment of Mercedes-Benz Manufacturing RUS in Moscow. Since April 2022, Axel has significantly contributed to stabilizing production at the Charleston plant, and his extensive experience will be invaluable as he embarks on this new chapter in Poland.

“We thank Axel for his tireless efforts to improve the operational performance of the Charleston plant and are confident he will bring the same dedication to Jawor.

Francesco Ciancia, Head of Mercedes-Benz Vans Operations.

Johannes Kellermann will succeed Axel Bense as CEO of Mercedes-Benz Vans, LLC in Charleston, also effective March 1, 2025. Johannes has held various strategic roles since joining the company in 2009, most recently serving as Head of Operational Excellence, Digitalization, Lean & Green within Van Operations as well as Head of Operations at Mercedes-Benz in Ludwigsfelde. His experience in streamlining processes and leading strategic projects will be crucial in driving the Charleston plant forward.

“We are delighted to welcome Johannes to this vital role. His extensive expertise will ensure that Mercedes-Benz Vans LLC continues to thrive in an increasingly competitive market.

Francesco Ciancia, Head of Mercedes-Benz Vans Operations.

Mercedes-Benz remains committed to excellence in operations and innovation as it continues to expand its global footprint.

About MBV

Mercedes-Benz Vans, LLC (“MBV”) is a Ladson, South Carolina based production entity that produces Sprinter as well as eSprinter vans for the U.S. and Canadian markets.

Mercedes-Benz Vans, LLC has invested more than 500 million U.S. Dollars in the new Sprinter plant, which officially opened in 2018. Today, the MBV facility provides more than 1,700 jobs and supports at least 600 additional jobs in the region through its suppliers. Representing an additional nearly \$60 million investment, MBV Charleston was selected to be the first plant in the Mercedes-Benz Vans global production network to produce the all-new eSprinter, beginning in 2024. Mercedes-Benz Vans Charleston also continues investing in the local community with over \$1,900,000 dollars donated to local non-profits & schools via STEM programs since 2006 and over 900 volunteer hours.

Since 2006, more than 350,000 Sprinter and Metris vans have been assembled in North Charleston and delivered to destinations across the U.S. In 2021, the plant celebrated its 15-year legacy of SKD production in South Carolina. 2023 marked a plant milestone with a record-setting over 50,000 vans produced. The U.S. is the second largest market for Sprinter vans after Germany.

<https://mbvcharleston.com/>

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