

Porsche sets up shop in Saxony – the Leipzig plant

Leipzig is Porsche's most important production site after Zuffenhausen. Originally home to the production of the Cayenne, it now hosts the assembly of the Panamera and Macan.

Tuesday 20 August 2002 was a historic date for Porsche, with dignitaries including German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder attending the official opening of the new Leipzig plant. The development came about when the company's Zuffenhausen headquarters reached the limits of their capacity.

Porsche acquired a 200-plus hectare site in Leipzig, where it established a cutting-edge production hall and a 3.7-kilometre on-road and dynamic circuit. The Stuttgart-based company also built a six-kilometre off-road course there. Porsche started a new chapter with the Cayenne, expanding its model range to include this large, sporty SUV that was produced in Leipzig. The new site additionally hosted the assembly of the Carrera GT supercar between 2003 and 2006.

Porsche also undertook production of the new Panamera in Leipzig as of 2008. For this model, the company constructed a production hall measuring 25,000 square metres and a logistics centre that was almost as large again. But that wasn't all. When Porsche launched the Macan on the market in late 2013, it had long been established that Leipzig would host the production of this second, smaller SUV model. And the ever-expanding plant was also entrusted with the second generation of the Panamera from 2016 onwards. The third generation of the SUV sold all around the world is now produced entirely in Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia.

The Leipzig plant has proven a terrific boon, not only for Porsche itself but also for the city of Leipzig and the Free State of Saxony. The number of people employed there has steadily risen to over 4,000, with Porsche establishing more than 70,000 square metres of production and logistics facilities at the site over the years as well as investing over 1.3 billion euros in Saxony. Porsche Leipzig is also home to an architectural gem in the form of the customer centre: located between the on-road circuit and the production halls, this 32-metre circular building is shaped like a diamond.