



2 FEBRUARY 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The first Octavia was produced fifty years ago

The Octavia, Škoda's best-selling these days, is celebrating its 50th birthday this year – the production of the first car launched under this brand name, started in January 1959.

"Our new vehicle has a new name, too – it is called Škoda Octavia, as it is the eighth model produced by our nationalised industry," says the issue of the company magazine Ventil released on January 6, 1959.

The then existing numerical identifications were replaced by verbal ones - the Škoda 440 became the Octavia, the Škoda 445 was renamed to the Octavia Super and the Škoda 450 was called the Felicia from then on. However, the change involved more than just the names and minor adaptations to the vehicle's front mask. Škoda designers also redesigned the front axles of all Škoda passenger cars in 1959 – the old leaf spring was replaced by a coil spring with telescopic shock absorbers, which was indeed a major change. "Coil springs were also meant to be used for the rear axle, but did not prove to be a good solution, and so the Company stuck to the leaf springs in the end," adds Lukáš Nachtmann, Head of the Škoda Auto Archive.

The name was resurrected after 1989, and the Octavia model line became the first car developed internally after Škoda's becoming part of the VW Group. The first prearrangements and the first concept car were made in 1992. The vehicle was launched in 1996, its estate version (Combi) was introduced two years after that, the 4x4 version was added later on.

The year 2000 saw a new, modernised version that is still manufactured under the name Octavia Tour. In February 2004 the Company launched the second-generation Škoda Octavia that was then facelifted in 2008.

The Czech Republic's biggest car manufacturer has sold over 2 million Škoda Octavias worldwide so far, and currently offers a wide range of versions, including the Škoda Octavia RS (sports car) and the Scout (leisure-time).

For further enquiries, please contact

Marie Tang

Marketing Manager

Email: marie.tang@skoda.com.sg