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Second workshop visit on the way to the Wörthersee: Apprentices reveal – Wörthersee GTI 2018 will appear at GTI meeting with White Silver metallic paintwork

- 15 apprentices from the Volkswagen brand put their own ideas into practice for a unique GTI show car
- World premiere on May 9 in Maria Wörth (Austria)
- GTI is Volkswagen's sporty spearhead

Wolfsburg / Maria Wörth (Austria) – The first secret is out of the bag: the Wörthersee GTI 2018 will travel to the 37th GTI meeting (May 9 to 12) with White Silver metallic paintwork. The 15 apprentices and on the team still have about seven weeks' time, after which their Wörthersee showcar must be ready to travel on its wide wheels before being covered up and loaded. Seven women and eight men from eight different vocations are currently working on a unique Golf GTI in line with their own ideas. The world premiere is to take place on May 9 in Maria Wörth, in the Austrian state of Carinthia. The sporty GTI family, consisting of the Golf GTI¹, Polo GTI² und up! GTI³, has many fans throughout the world. Each year, tens of thousands of them come to Lake Wörthersee for the legendary GTI meeting.



The Wörthersee GTI 2018 team from Volkswagen and Sitech with project manager Holger Schülke



Lena Volk (from left), Florian Dimt and Marie-Kristin Schildwächter with the painted Golf GTI body

Photo shoot in the special paint shop at Volkswagen's Wolfsburg plant: the apprentices collect the freshly painted Golf GTI body. Before the body is taken to Hall 103 of Volkswagen Vocational Training for individual final assembly, the apprentices, aged between 19 and 23, briefly lift the blue cover. The 11th apprentices' GTI, for 2018, will appear in White Silver metallic.

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Marie-Kristin Schildwächter (20), future vehicle paint technician from Rühren (district of Gifhorn) explains why the team chose White Silver: "This paintwork is elegant at the same time as being neutral. It provides considerable leeway for creative exterior design, for example light to dark color shifts and multi-color concepts. We considered various concepts and ideas both within the team and with the Design department. I'm not going to reveal any more at the moment."

Florian Dimt (21) is one of six motor vehicle mechatronics technicians on the GTI team. For his apprenticeship, he came to Lower Saxony from the Erzgebirge Mountains in the East three years ago. "When I first saw the red and black Golf GTI Wolfsburg Edition in 2014, it was love at first sight," he says. "I was determined to work on a Wörthersee GTI myself and now I have succeeded," adds Dimt, who has chosen to live in Brunswick. He and his colleagues are responsible for the brake and exhaust systems, the chassis and the body kit of the Wörthersee GTI, including attachments such as front and rear aprons, sills and spoilers. Responsibilities and tasks are divided up among the team members. "On the final sprint, everyone helps everyone else. It is team spirit that counts," says Dimt.

Lena Volk (20), apprentice vehicle interior fitter from Wolfsburg-Sülfeld, is responsible for the interior together with Henny Stegmann, who is training in the same vocation with Sitech in Wolfsburg: "When I started my apprenticeship, I was already interested in the GTI project and I did my very best right from the start," says Volk. "On the basis of my good performance, I applied to take part in the project following the first year of my apprenticeship. Now she is sketching, designing, cutting and sewing fabric and leather for side trims, seat covers and the gearshift – all exclusively for the 11th unique GTI to be produced by an apprentice team. "It is a tremendous feeling. In our team, everyone counts," she says. "All of us are showing what we can do. I am convinced that our Wörthersee GTI 2018 will be fantastic."

This year, the team includes two specialists in office management for the first time. "They are helping us with scheduling and budget controlling," says Holger Schülke. He has been the Wörthersee GTI project manager since 2013. Schülke emphasizes: "Again and again, I am thrilled by the high level of motivation, skill and creativity of our apprentices. By the end of the project, the team always appears at the meeting with a fantastic car."

The **Wolfsburg Wörthersee GTI 2018 team** headed by project manager Holger Schülke includes seven women and eight men aged between 19 and 22 training in eight different vocations – **motor vehicle mechatronics technicians:**



team spokesperson Maximilian Klar (21), Florian Dimt (21), Maximilian Purrrucker (21), Vincent Siermann (20), **electronics technicians for automation:** Patrick Schilling (19) and Maurice-Christian Ziesmann (21), **vehicle paint technicians:** Anna-Katharina Heumann (22) and Marie-Kristin Schildwächter (20), **vehicle interior fitters:** Henny Stegmann (19) and Lena Volk (20), **specialists in office management:** Lina Bosse (20) and Tina Geißler (20), **technical model maker:** Sandra Dombrowski (21), **technical product designer:** Nico Sennhenn (21), **process technician specializing in plastic and rubber engineering:** Marc Fitzlaff (23).

Maurice-Christian Ziesmann is completing a dual-course study and combining his apprenticeship with a degree course in electrical engineering and information technology (Ostfalia, Wolfenbüttel). Henny Stegmann is completing her apprenticeship with Sitech in Wolfsburg, all the others work at Volkswagen's Wolfsburg plant. Sitech is the Volkswagen Group company specializing in the development and production of vehicle seats.

Note: The text and photos are available at www.volkswagen-media-services.com (user ID: azubi, password: azubi2018#).

¹ Golf GTI (169 kW/230 PS): fuel consumption, l/100 km: urban 8.2 – 7.8 /extra urban 5.5 – 5.3 /combined 6.4 – 6.3; CO₂ emissions, combined, g/km: 148 - 145; efficiency class: D

² Polo GTI (147 kW/200 PS): fuel consumption, l/100 km: urban 7.7 /extra urban 4.9 /combined 5.9; CO₂ emissions, combined, g/km: 134; efficiency class: C

³ up! GTI (85 kW/115 PS): fuel consumption, l/100 km: urban 6.0 /extra urban 4.1 /combined 4.8; CO₂ emissions, combined, g/km: 110; efficiency class: C

About the Volkswagen brand: "We make the future real"

The Volkswagen Passenger Cars brand is present in more than 150 markets throughout the world and produces vehicles at over 50 locations in 14 countries. In 2017, Volkswagen produce more than 6 million vehicles including bestselling models such as the Golf, Tiguan, Jetta or Passat. Currently, 198,000 people work for Volkswagen across the globe. The brand also has over 7,700 dealerships with 74,000 employees. Volkswagen is forging ahead consistently with the further development of automobile production. E-mobility, smart mobility and the digital transformation of the brand are the key strategic topics for the future.
