



Mercedes-Benz

**Excerpts from the statement
on the occasion of the
Sprinter World Premiere
at Duisburg, 6 February 2018**

(The spoken word is binding)

**Wilfried Porth, Member of the Board of Management of Daimler AG
Responsible for Human Resources, Labor Relations & Mercedes-Benz Vans**

Ladies and gentlemen,
the Sprinter is a high-tech vehicle. The reason for its huge success is easy to explain: The focus is always on the human being. And by that, I don't just mean our customers. I also mean the people who are involved in bringing such a vehicle to our customers and working closely with them.

The cultural change Dieter was just talking about is therefore an elementary part of the new Sprinter generation, too. Our leadership initiative is bringing team spirit and cooperation within the Group to the next level. One very specific example of this is the production of the new Sprinter. We've made all the processes in our factories even more ergonomic and efficient. Our colleagues are benefitting from a state-of-the-art working environment.

This is more important now than ever, because our continuous growth also means greater challenges: Firstly, the amazing sales figures led to an increase in production volumes in 2017. And secondly, the new generation brings with it a further expansion in the number of variants. The good news is that we're extremely well prepared for this. Not just strategically – as Volker Mornhinweg will show you in a moment – but also in terms of people. The Sprinter is the leader in its segment, and our first-rate people will make sure we keep its global

production network up to the very latest technological standards.

Each and every node in the global production network is perfectly adapted to the product and its processes, and we already have highly qualified specialists doing a great job at all of our plants. Our people are already benefitting in many areas from the increasing level of digitalisation throughout our facilities. Projects like the “paperless factory” or driverless transport systems are relieving them of routine tasks.

We also launched an extensive expat programme to ensure knowledge transfer for the new Sprinter. It has been facilitating in-depth dialogue between our new factory in Charleston and our facilities in Germany. The German plants in Düsseldorf and Ludwigsfelde play particularly crucial roles in our Sprinter network. Düsseldorf, for instance, has been the Sprinter competence centre for years. As the lead factory, it remains the focal point for production worldwide. That’s why the forthcoming electric Sprinter will also be built there. In Ludwigsfelde, on the other hand, we’ve launched a succession of pilot projects over the years relating to Industry 4.0.

For example, Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) has been enabling the localisation and identification of individual components for some time now. Our suppliers fit certain parts with a chip, which makes it possible to pinpoint where the part is in the production process at any given time. There’s no need to attach and scan bar codes manually. Instead, our people can focus their full attention on important and demanding assembly work. RFID is entering series production with the new Sprinter and, going forward, will also be rolled out to other plants.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We want to use this and similar technologies to further digitalise our global production by 2025 to ensure our co-workers around the world are working under the very best conditions possible. We’re investing a total of more than 200 million euros in the next level of our Sprinter production. The new Sprinter deserves nothing less: A first-class global vehicle also needs a first-class global team. The Sprinter is and will always be a vehicle for professionals – by professionals.

Thank you!