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The brand invests 5.3 million euros in its new facilities

CUPRA opens the doors of its new headquarters with the debut of the first CUPRA Leon

- > **The brand announces a product offensive and plans to reach one billion euros of SEAT's total turnover when its full range is available**
- > **CUPRA Racing presents two racecars and confirms its participation in the PURE ETCR**
- > **The series version of the CUPRA Formentor will be presented at the next Geneva Motor Show**
- > **The inauguration of the CUPRA Garage gathers the CUPRA Tribe, including the new ambassador Marc ter Stegen, Mattias Ekström and Fernando Belasteguín**

Coinciding with its second anniversary, CUPRA has inaugurated the brand's new headquarters, the CUPRA Garage, located next door to SEAT's own corporate headquarters. During the inauguration event, for the first time and on a global scale, the car brand presented the range of the first CUPRA Leon, including new racing cars, and is beginning its journey towards electrification with its first hybrid model.

After closing 2019 with a 71.8% growth over the previous year and nearly 24,700 units sold, CUPRA kicked off 2020 with a full schedule of novelties. In addition to opening the doors of its new home, a 2,400 square metre eco-efficient building whose design evokes a racing paddock, the brand is remodelling its racing car workshop, the CUPRA Racing Factory. CUPRA has invested 5.3 million euros in its new facilities, which feature enough room for a staff of 200 employees.

"The decision to establish CUPRA as an independent brand two years ago could not have worked out better, because in this short time it has become our most profitable business unit. CUPRA gives SEAT the opportunity to produce more profitable models and reach new customers, and the two brands together give us the resources and operational base to continue growing. We have now decided to strengthen the brand by building its own corporate headquarters", said Carsten Isensee, SEAT Acting President and Executive Vice-president of Finance and IT, at the press conference to launch the CUPRA Leon.

#2020: a key year

This year, CUPRA is intent on demonstrating its capabilities in the automotive market by broadening its range and expanding internationally. In addition to the success of the CUPRA Ateca, the brand is going to strengthen its product portfolio with the first CUPRA Leon, in its hatchback and break versions, and with the CUPRA Formentor, the first model designed specifically for the brand.



CUPRA CEO and SEAT Executive Vice-president for Sales and Marketing Wayne Griffiths highlighted that **“the results achieved in these past two years, with close to 40,000 cars sold, prove the great potential of this brand. CUPRA is growing more than we had expected, and therefore we had to build a home for the CUPRA Tribe and doubled our staff to 200 employees. We are now entering a new phase where we will demonstrate that sportiness can be electrified with the launch of three hybrid cars and we plan to reach one billion euros of SEAT’s total turnover when we will have the full range available”**

Griffiths also announced that the production model of the CUPRA Formentor will make its first public appearance at this year’s Geneva Motor Show, and is expected to reach the market in the second half of the year.

The first member of the family

CUPRA used the occasion of the official opening of its headquarters to present the new family of the CUPRA Leon, the brand’s best-selling model whose latest generation had posted 44,000 units sold in four years. In order to boost the company, CUPRA presented the hatchback and break versions with a wide range of high-performance engines, from the petrol engine to the plug-in hybrid with three options of 245, 300 and 310 hp.

The CUPRA Leon, set for market launch in the last quarter of the year, is considered the ‘King of Leons’. The first CUPRA Leon with the brand’s logo features design, comfort and the latest technology for car enthusiasts who are open to electrification and looking for driving fun and performance.

The origins point the way

CUPRA also unveiled the new version of the CUPRA e-Racer, the world’s first all-electric touring racecar. Brand CEO Wayne Griffiths confirmed CUPRA’s participation in the PURE ETCR electric touring car championship, which is getting underway this year, with Mattias Ekström and Jordi Gené on the starting grid.

The engineers of the brand born from the world of racing have developed a new petrol touring car racer, the CUPRA Leon Competición. Ekström and Gené were tasked with unveiling the vehicle and highlighted its improvements in aerodynamic efficiency and the use of lightweight components developed using 3D printing to improve weight distribution.

In addition, CUPRA also presented the new pilot racing suit and the teamwear collection in cobranding with Sabelt, the global leader of racing cars equipment.

The new home of the CUPRA Tribe

The inauguration event of the CUPRA Garage assembled the CUPRA Tribe, which since last week has a new member, F.C. Barcelona goalkeeper Marc ter Stegen. The German international arrived at the wheel of one of the 1,999 units of the CUPRA Ateca Limited Edition and was officially introduced to the guests and the media.



At the opening event, CUPRA lined up an elite team of champions such as the four ambassadors in the world of padel, including Argentina's Fernando Belasteguín, Pablo Lima, Alejandra Salazar y Ariana Sánchez; the Olympic medallist Saúl Craviotto and touring car racer Mikel Azcona.

The CUPRA World expands

In line with its mission to create exclusive, limited product collections that represent the brand's lifestyle, CUPRA presented a number of prototypes of its new collaborations. The Barcelona-based lighting company Marset developed CHISPA, a portable, rechargeable and cordless lamp designed by Marset for CUPRA. Furthermore, the footwear brand Mikakus presented two prototypes of urban sneakers designed and created for the automotive brand. Moreover, CUPRA showcased an electric, ultralight and foldable bike that was engineered and handcrafted by UNNO, a Barcelona bicycle boutique from Barcelona.

In addition, CUPRA has expanded its line of bags and sunglasses with the Italian workshops TRAKATAN and L.G.R., respectively. The brand aims to cooperate with people and businesses that speak the same design language and share their way of creating experiences.

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CUPRA is a special brand based on striking design and electrified performance, taking SEAT to the next level with a new interpretation of sportiness. In its second year of operations, CUPRA sales shot up by 71.8% in 2019, reaching close to 24,700 units thanks to the success of the CUPRA Ateca. Along with the inauguration of its new headquarters, in 2020 CUPRA will carry out a product offensive with the launch of the CUPRA Leon and the CUPRA Formentor. Besides entering into a global alliance with FC Barcelona and becoming its exclusive Official Automotive and Mobility Partner, CUPRA has lined up an elite team of champions, such as the German goalkeeper Marc ter Stegen or the Swedish driver Mattias Ekström, who will participate at the PURE ETCR with the CUPRA e-Racer. The CUPRA World is alive and ready to win the hearts of car enthusiasts in close to 250 CUPRA Specialists around the world.