

PPF Appoints new Skoda CEO

PPF Group today announced the appointment of Didier Pflieger as Chief Executive Officer of Skoda Group and Chairman of the Board of Skoda Transportation. Didier Pflieger is an accomplished executive with a proven track record in leading global industrial businesses and driving innovation.

Coming from global industry leader Alstom, Didier Pflieger assumes his new position today. Working at Alstom for over a decade, he also served as a member on the company's executive board and as head of its electric bus unit APTIS. With his arrival, PPF aims to boost Skoda's transition into a diversified producer of modern transport systems and solutions, and its geographical expansion. The new CEO succeeds Petr Brzezina, who led Skoda, the traditional Czech rolling stock producer, from 2018.

"In appointing Didier Pflieger, we are strengthening our goal of expanding Skoda's market share among major industrial companies worldwide. I would also like to thank Petr Brzezina for his efforts in stabilizing Skoda after our takeover of the company in 2018," says Ladislav Bartoniček, PPF Group CEO and shareholder.

During his tenure at Alstom as the president of Middle East, Africa and Central Asia, Didier Pflieger showed a strong track record in simultaneously improving the region's sales and profitability.

"I am honored that PPF has entrusted me with executing an impressive transformation of its key industrial asset. I deeply respect the Skoda tradition and its achievements in building environmentally minded, secure and comfortable transport systems. My immediate goals are improving the company's profitability and securing operational excellence of Skoda in the phase of significant growth. I am determined to build on what the shareholders have brought to Skoda by mobilizing all management teams and employees," Didier Pflieger says.

In the run-up to the appointment of Didier Pflieger as CEO of Skoda, the company's senior management team has also attracted other accomplished managers who previously worked with Skoda's globally operating peers. The new head of sales, Mike Niebling, comes from Bombardier, while the new head of production, Radoslaw Banach, worked at Alstom's Polish unit. Skoda has also recently appointed Martin Oravec as its new Chief Financial Officer. Martin Oravec previously held the same position at the PPF-owned telecommunications operator Telenor Hungary.

PPF Group operates in 25 countries, investing in multiple sectors, including financial services, telecommunications, media, biotechnology, real estate, and engineering. PPF Group's reach spans from Europe to North America and across Asia. The Group owns assets to the value of EUR 40.3 billion and employs 80,000 people globally (30 June 2021).

Skoda's production includes low-floor trams, electric locomotives, suburban train units, subway trains, electric buses, trolleybuses, electric motors and complete drives for transport systems. The group's Czech subsidiaries are Škoda Electric, Škoda Vagonka, Škoda Pars and Škoda Ekova. The group also operate other subsidiaries in Germany, Finland, Hungary and Russia. Its total employee base is over 5,500 people.

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