

To: Mr. Storz

From: Mame Dior MBAYE, Student at Telecom Lille 1 FA13

Date: January 26, 2010

Re: Visit to the BMW plant in Leipzig, Germany, November 29 2010

Summary

From 22 November to 1 December, my classmates and I made a trip to Leipzig in Germany. The purpose of the trip was linguistic, cultural and educational. During my ten days stay in Germany, I visited, with my classmates, the BMW plant in Leipzig Monday 29 November 2010. The plant started of series production in March 2005. Every day, 740 cars are produced by the 5400 plant employees. Each BMW car built in Leipzig passes through pressing plant, body shop, paint shop and assembly. All this manufacturing process and the many quality checks take 40 hours to the employees to product the several series: BMW 1 series three door, BMW 1 series coupe, BMW 1 series convertible, BMW X1.

The car body parts manufacturing

The production process begins with the manufacturing of single car body panels. The most required car body parts like side frames, doors, roofs or front hoods apparently vibration-free are product in the press who is about 100 meters long. Some of these parts are combined to form doors and hoods. Other parts are transported directly into the body shop and processed into components and body parts.

The Body shop

The production of a car body starts with the floor pan, which consists of the modules front and rear machine section as well as the bottom plate. In the next step the floor pan is equipped with side frames and roof to form a complete body. Doors, front hood and back door complete the body. The different body part produced are combined step by step by the 700 robots in Body shop to manufacture the car body. More than 5.000 spot welds connect the different parts and shape a stable skeletal structure.

Painting and assembly

The Paint shop makes sure that the car body is protected from environmental influences and gives the surface colour and brilliant lustre. A total of four layers of paint are applied. Before that, the body is cleaned and pre-treated in dip baths. The first two layers are mainly responsible for protection against corrosion and other environmental impacts like rock slides. When the base and clear topcoat have been applied, the body has received its colour and shine. Now, the painted body equipped with all items of equipment to meet individual customer demands by the employees. The assembly process starts with the carving of the vehicle identification number. After components of the interior, bumpers and wheels are assembled, operating liquids are filled in and extensive performance tests are carried out.

Conclusions and Recommendations

This visit permits me to know the different step of manufacturing the BMW cars and all the hard work that leads employees before the vehicle is ready to start. This visit makes me want to buy a BMW car and you recommend it. BMW plant manufacture high quality products while respecting the environment. In the plant, each BMW automobile is individually produced and tailor-made to the client's wishes and preferences.