



Volkswagen to Launch its First Car Plant in Ethiopia

German carmaker, Volkswagen plans to open a car assembly plant in Ethiopia as it expands its presence in Africa.

Following the signing of the MOU by Investment Commissioner Mr. Abeba Abebayehu and CEO of VW Mr. Thomas Shafer said, "Ethiopia is an attractive and competitive location for production and supporting logistics."

Mr. Thomas Shaffer also said, "The signing of the MoU showcases the seriousness with which Volkswagen takes its commitment to Africa with the planned local assembly we are confident to be able to expand our market position."

Investment Commissioner Mr. Abeba Abebayehu said that, "We welcome the decision of Volkswagen to resume manufacturing and assembly of cars in Ethiopia, a step that reflects the improvement of the investment environment and the performance of business in Ethiopia, in the light of the implementation of the comprehensive economic reform program as well as the openness of Ethiopia to cooperate with the German company within the framework of its policies to develop the automotive industry in its various categories."

Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed received the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Frank Walter Steinmer and his delegation yesterday, who are currently visiting Ethiopia. During the occasion, the Premier immensely appreciated the long-term and consistent technical and vocational support of the government of Germany to Ethiopia.

In addition to Rwanda, the Volkswagen brand is also active at three other locations in the Sub-Sahara region: the company has been manufacturing vehicles in South Africa since 1951. Vehicle assembly began in Nigeria in 2015 and in Kenya in December 2016.

By 1955, Volkswagen was in more than 150 countries worldwide.