100 YEARS – SECURING THE FUTURE

Annual Report 2024/2025

Introduction by the Management Board

Welcome,

as we enter our centenary year, DEKRA is standing strong – resilient, future-focused, and committed to moving forward. Even in the face of prevailing global challenges we have continued on our growth trajectory, reinforcing our position as the global partner for a safe, secure, and sustainable world.

Our onging success is built on strategically investing in both our core business and future-oriented fields. In 2024 we moved further in this direction, advancing key projects such as the Battery Test Center in Klettwitz (Brandenburg), opening a WiFi component testing laboratory in Stuttgart, and expanding our laboratory network in mainland China and Taiwan.

Alongside investing in state-of-the-art testing and certification sites, we have also strengthened our expertise, expanding our footprint in critical fields such as electromobility, automated driving, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, hydrogen, and sustainability.

»Our mission as an independent third party: Securing the future through an uncompromising commitment to a safe, secure, and sustainable world.«

Stan Zurkiewicz, Chairman of the Management Board DEKRA e.V. and DEKRA SE CEO

In fiscal year 2024 we once again fulfilled our mandate to ensure the safe, secure, and sustainable adoption of new technologies. For the area of artificial intelligence we introduced quality management systems, training programs, risk assessments, and testing procedures, while in the cybersecurity field we implemented rigorous test scenarios based on international standards, to help corporations protect sensitive data.

2025 brings a significant milestone for us: 100 years of DEKRA; a century of standing for safety. “Securing the Future” – this is our centennial slogan. It serves to spotlight that, in the context of being an independent third party, our mission is steadfastly to create a safe, secure, and sustainable world for generations to come. We invite you to join us on this journey.

Stan Zurkiewicz
Chairman of the Management Board DE KRA e.V. and DEKRA SE
CEO

Petra Finke
Member of the Management Board DEKRA SE
CDO

Peter Laursen
Member of the Management Board DEKRA SE
COO

Wolfgang Linsenmaier
Member of the Management Board DEKRA e.V. and DEKRA SE
CFO

Go to the online report
https://report.dekra.com/en

Supervisory Board

Welcome,

the information exchanged between the Supervisory and Management Boards in fiscal year 2024 was focused on the objective of strengthening DEKRA's position as the largest non-listed testing, inspection, and certification organization.

The communication addressed a range of issues, including how to safeguard DEKRA's position as market-leader in its core business areas, as well as how it can build to take up a leading position in the growth areas of future mobility, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and sustainability.

In many key areas this was a matter of setting a strategic course and taking operational decisions. In the context of the expansion of testing facilities at the DEKRA Lausitzring in Klettwitz, Germany, the groundbreaking ceremony for the new battery testing and certification laboratory represented another step on the path towards creating the world's largest independent testing center for future mobility. In future the DEKRA facilities in Klettwitz will test the safety of assistance systems and highly automated driving functions, but also drive batteries for e-mobility and other high-voltage storage applications.

Overall, the Supervisory Board has closely overseen DEKRA's ongoing strategic development. The company's good international position meant that it was able to grow again in 2024, and deliver a solid earnings performance despite a challenging economic environment.

On behalf of the Presidential Board and the Supervisory Board, I would like to thank each and every DEKRA employee for their hard work. I would also like to thank all the members of DEKRA e.V., as well as our customers and business partners, for the long-held trust that they continue to place in us.

Stefan Kölbl
President of the Presidential Board DEKRA e.V.
Chairman of the Supervisory Board of DEKRA SE

Regions

AMERICAS
(1,703 EMPLOYEES)

This region comprises North, Central, and South America. DEKRA is continuing to expand its market presence here, in business areas such as product testing and certification, vehicle and emissions testing, process safety assessments, and consulting on all aspects of occupational safety, cybersecurity, and sustainability. By offering these services DEKRA underscores its commitment to safety and quality in key markets such as the USA, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, and Mexico.

NORTH-WEST EUROPE
(3,760 EMPLOYEES)

DEKRA ranks among the main providers of vehicle inspections in the Scandinavian countries; there is also demand for industrial inspection services, power plant assessments, and certification services in those territories. In the United Kingdom DEKRA contributes to improving occupational and plant safety, which strengthens the resilience of companies there. DEKRA is also helping to reduce environmental impacts and integrate sustainable business practices. At its site in Arnhem in the Netherlands, DEKRA continues to expand its role as the regional hub for product testing and certification.

SOUTH-WEST EUROPE
(6,222 EMPLOYEES)

Vehicle and industrial inspections are one of the key services in this region, which comprises France, Spain, Portugal, and Morocco. In Spain DEKRA has established a center of excellence that focuses on the secure connectivity and electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) of cell phones and smart home products, with additional emphases on Industry 4.0 and big data applications. V2X (vehicle-to-everything) technologies are being tested at a dedicated test site for connected driving, and specific test processes for relevant products and applications are at an early stage of development.

GERMANY, SWITZERLAND & AUSTRIA
(14,549 EMPLOYEES)

These three countries make up an important region for DEKRA. From our home market of Germany, we advance transnational innovations and services in future-focused fields such as sustainability, cybersecurity, and artificial intelligence (AI). For example, the DEKRA Technology Center at the Lausitzring in Klettwitz, Germany, is being developed as Europe's largest manufacturer-independent test track for automated and connected transportation.

CENTRAL-EAST EUROPE & MIDDLE EAST
(1,632 EMPLOYEES)

This region encompasses Italy, the Balkan states, Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, Israel, the United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Romania, and Bulgaria. The primary business areas here include vehicle inspection, audits and certification, consulting and training, and claims management services. DEKRA also has laboratories providing homologation and type approval services, as well as testing for aspects of driver assistance systems and electric vehicles such as electromagnetic compatibility (EMC).

APAC
(3,583 EMPLOYEES)

The Asia-Pacific (APAC) region covers Greater China, Japan, South Korea, India, Vietnam, and New Zealand. Alongside vehicle and industrial inspection services, business in this region is focused on product testing in the electronics, automotive, renewable energy, medical, and retail sectors. Future-oriented fields are also of interest here, such as artificial intelligence, sustainability testing, cybersecurity, and functional safety.

DEKRA

Service Divisions

VEHICLES

DEKRA ensures the safety and performance of all kinds of vehicles on the road. For everything from cars and motorcycles to trucks and buses, the comprehensive inspection services provided meet the highest standards of quality and reliability. The Vehicles service division also keeps pace with the latest technological developments in the automotive industry, ensuring it can serve these new technologies with specialized services to support innovation and the future viability of the mobility sector.

SERVICES

› Periodic and non-periodic vehicle inspections
› Emissions testing
› Claims handling
› Driving license services
› Accident analysis
› Vehicle valuation
› Driving tests
› Vehicle management services
› Advanced driver assistance systems
› Automated driving systems
› Electric vehicles (EV)

DIGITAL PRODUCTS

DEKRA inspects and certifies products to ensure they operate safely while complying with the standards and regulations needed for access to local and global markets.

The Digital Products service division fosters safety, security, and sustainability in new technological ecosystems by providing testing and certification solutions which support the rapid pace of technology development and its integration into products, vehicles, and services.

SERVICES

› Product safety testing
› Functional safety
› Cybersecurity
› Artificial intelligence
› Data analytics / big data
› Connectivity testing
› Automotive testing
› EMC & RF testing
› Product certification
› Medical device certification

INDUSTRIAL ASSETS

DEKRA provides comprehensive safety DEKRA conducts extensive safety inspections and assessments in respect of customer buildings, infrastructure, and industrial facilities across the world, making use of a wide range of technologies and its own significant experience in this area.

DEKRA utilizes many different testing methods including visual and non-destructive/destructive (NDT/DT) testing, as well as its in-house-developed remote and monitoring inspection systems. This service division supports its customers in all phases of the product life cycle – from feasibility studies, through construction, to operation and decommissioning.

SERVICES

› Construction monitoring
› Fire protection
› Ventilation
› Energy efficiency
› Pressure equipment
› Plant safety
› Welding services
› Elevators and cranes
› Machine fleet
› Electrical systems
› Environmental protection (soil, water, air)
› Renewable energy (wind, hydrogen, etc.)
› Asset Integrity Management (AIM)

PEOPLE, PROCESSES & ORGANIZATIONS

Across a wide range of sectors and supply chains, skilled employees and high-performing companies benefit from authoritative assessment, certification, consulting, and training.

Experienced auditors, experts, and trainers make use of advanced tools and digital technologies to deliver services tailored to our customers' specific requirements.

This service division offers services in risk, compliance, and performance improvement with respect to safety and sustainability standards.

SERVICES

› Health, safety and environment (HSE)
› Sustainability
› Management systems
› Verification & validation
› Process reliability
› Information security, cybersecurity & artificial intelligence
› Automotive business improvement
› Transport & logistics
› Future mobility

TEMP WORK

Temp Work supplies expertise and experience in managing staff, solutions, events, logistics, and human resources.

SERVICES

› Temporary work
› Candidate management
› Human resources management solutions
› Event and logistics management

Strategic direction

Sustaining healthy and profitable growth

The guiding principle underlying DEKRA's strategic direction is stable, healthy, and profitable growth. DEKRA launched the Strategy 2030+ process in the reporting year, representing a continuation of the path mapped out in Vision 2025. Our intention is to be a partner to our customers in shaping a safe, secure, and sustainable world.

This is something we can build only on the foundation of the skills and customer focus of our employees across all continents. Immense trust is placed in us by our customers around the world, and that is all down to our employees' expertise in our legacy business, as well as in growth areas such as future mobility, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and sustainability.

DEKRA relies on clear communication and leadership to circulate and implement its strategic direction, as well as the commitment, initiative, and individual responsibility of its employees.

Diversität & Inklusion

An essential facet of communication and development

In fiscal year 2024 DEKRA continued its work in raising the visibility of diversity and inclusion (D&I) by way of various formats including videos, training, and initiatives such as the DEKRA Diversity Day.

Given that this is a core topic for both employees and management, diversity and inclusion is an essential component of the company's communication and development, and actions to this end in 2024 included publication of a DEKRA inclusive language policy. At the end of May we celebrated the range of cultures, backgrounds, and perspectives represented within the company's global community with the DEKRA Diversity Day, while the company's "Language Tandem" program brought together employees from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds, to promote intercultural understanding and enable language sharing. The "Grow Beyond" global mentoring program successfully facilitated more than 100 connections between mentors and mentees with the goal of improving collaboration across the organization.

One focus of our D&I work in fiscal year 2024 was the advancement of women. In March the worldwide DEKRA Women Circle marked International Women's Day with an event that used the tagline "#InspireInclusion." The "EmpowHER" global training program for female employees was another notably successful initiative. Led by a team of 24 trainers, this involved more than 150 participants completing 12 courses in five languages. Moreover one of the targets set for the end of 2025 has already been achieved: The ratio of women in management positions is now just under 20 percent.

DEKRA intends to continue fostering a diverse and inclusive workforce. Plans in this area include establishing a global employer brand that appeals to a broad range of young talents and professionals, which will be achieved via a range of measures including work to develop job descriptions and onboarding programs. There will also be an additional focus on achieving diversity in ways of thinking, looking at topics such as emotional intelligence and neurodiversity.

Key figures

Here you can gain a rapid overview of DE KRA ’s key figures and other performance indicators.

Revenue DEKRA Group and regions		2022*	2023	2024
Revenue DEKRA Group	in € million	3,796.5	4,101.4	**4,293.8**
of which GSA (Germany, Switzerland, Austria)	in € million	2,370.5	2,557.1	**2,621.5**
of which South-West Europe	in € million	535.1	551.3	**595.0**
of which North-West Europe	in € million	365.2	397.5	**438.4**
of which APAC	in € million	244.3	260.7	**275.2**
of which Central East Europe & Middle East	in € million	167.9	190.4	**200.3**
of which Americas	in € million	113.5	144.4	**163.4**

*As of April 1, 2023, DEKRA transferred its activities in Austria and Switzerland to the new GSA (Germany, Switzerland, Austria) Region. The prior-year figures are adjusted accordingly.

Revenue DEKRA Group and business areas		2022*	2023*	2024
Revenue DEKRA Group	in € million	3,796.5	4,101.4	**4,293.8**
of which Vehicle Inspection	in € million	1,822.4	2,009.3	**2,137.9**
of which Industrial Inspection	in € million	555.6	587.3	**621.2**
of which Digital Products	in € million	317.5	362.9	**386.4**
of which People, Processes & Organizations	in € million	515.3	566.1	**615.0**
of which Temp Work	in € million	542.9	533.7	**479.1**
of which Other	in € million	42.8	42.1	**54.2**

* DEKRA reduced the number of service divisions to five in the reporting year. The prior-year figures are adjusted accordingly.

Key figures

Earnings		2022	2023	2024
DEKRA Group				
Adjusted EBITDA	in € million	422.7	455.5	**480.1**
Adjusted earnings before taxes (EBT)	in € million	210.5	237.9	**243.3**
Adjusted earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT)	in € million	226.4	255.3	**266.0**
Adjusted EBIT margin	in %	6.0	6.2	**6.2**

Investment and Cashflow		2022	2023	2024
DEKRA Group				
Net investement in tangible assets (property, plant, and equipment) and intangible assets	in € million	133.1	138.0	**124.0**
Gross investement in tangible assets (property, plant, and equipment) and intangible assets	in € million	143.2	143.5	**142.7**
Cash flow from operating activities	in € million	286.3	340.9	**398.8**

Balance sheet		2022	2023	2024
DEKRA Group				
Total assets	in € million	2,812.4	2,882.4	**2,998.2**
Non-current assets	in € million	1,848.5	1,937.4	**2,014.7**
Current assets	in € million	963.9	945.0	**983.5**
Equity	in € million	1,153.5	1,133.5	**1,186.7**
Equity ratio	in %	41.0	39.3	**39.6**

Employees		2022	2023	2024
without DEKRA e.V.				
Number as of Dec. 31		48,646	48,771	**47,803**
Personnel expenses	in € million	2,550.3	2,718.4	**2,834.7**

Corporate Management

MANAGEMENT BOARD

Stan Zurkiewicz
Chairman of the Management Board
DEKRA e.V. and DEKRA SE
CEO

Petra Finke
Member of the Management Board
DEKRA SE
CDO

Peter Laursen
Member of the Management Board
DEKRA SE
COO

Wolfgang Linsenmaier
Member of the Management Board
DEKRA e.V. and DEKRA SE
CFO

REGIONEN

Stefan Törngren
Executive Vice President
Region North-West Europe

Guido Kutschera
Executive Vice President
Region Germany, Switzerland & Austria

Toni Purcaro
Executive Vice President
Region Central-East Europe & Middle East

John Tesoro
Executive Vice President
Region Americas

Kilian Aviles
Executive Vice President
Region APAC

SERVICE DIVISIONS

Christoph Nolte
Executive Vice President
Service Division Vehicles

Fernando Hardasmal
Executive Vice President
Service Division Digital & Product Solutions

Joakim Wikeby
Executive Vice President
Service Division Industrial Assets

Roman Zadrozny
Executive Vice President
Service Division People
Processes & Organizations

Suzana Bernhard
Executive Vice President
Service Division Temp Work

CORPORATE FUNCTIONS

Christian Köhn
Executive Vice President,
Legal, Compliance & Data Protection,
DEKRA Group

Uta Leitner
Executive Vice President,
Communications & Brand Management,
DEKRA Group

Pierre Ribeill
Executive Vice President
Global Procurement
Administration & Real Estate

Guido Ruiz Höhn
Executive Vice President,
Chief Human Resources Officer (CHRO),
DEKRA Group

Mark Thomä
Executive Vice President
Strategy & Corporate Development

Marketing & Sales, DEKRA Group (interim)

Martina Taxis
Executive Vice President
Group Finance

PRESIDENTS LEGAL ENTITIES

Jann Fehlauer
Executive Vice President
DEKRA Automobil GmbH Germany

Friedemann Bausch
Executive Vice President
DEKRA Automobil GmbH Germany

Committees

DEKRA E.V.	
Presidential Board DEKRA e.V.	
Stefan Kölbl	President, Leinfelden-Echterdingen
Arndt G. Kirchhoff	Vice President, Attendorn
Prof. Thomas Edig	Zwickau
Klaus-Jürgen Heitmann	Coburg
Bernhard Mattes	Köln
Simone Menne	Kiel
Hildegard Müller	Düsseldorf
Dr. Harald Schwager	Speyer
Dr. Stefan Sommer	Meersburg
Bernd Tönjes	Marl
Peter Tyroller	Stuttgart
Executive Board DEKRA e.V.	
Stan Zurkiewicz	Chairman, Stuttgart
Wolfgang Linsenmaier	Freiberg am Neckar
Advisory Board DEKRA e.V.	
Matthias Wissmann	Chairman, Ludwigsburg
Stefan Kölbl	Vice Chairman, Leinfelden-Echterdingen
Prof. Dr. Thomas Bauernhansl	Pforzheim
Doris Birkhofer	Sèvres, Frankreich [since Nov. 13, 2024]
Dr. h. c. Rudolf Böhmler	Schwäbisch Gmünd
Ulrich Dietz	Stuttgart
Arnd Franz	Böblingen
Christian Hoffmann	Köln [since Nov. 13 ,2024]
Arne Joswig	Kronshagen [since Mar. 19, 2024]
Mathias Krage	Hannover [until Nov. 13, 2024]
Prof. Dr. Markus Oeser	Stolberg
Andreas Renschler	Stuttgart
Prof. Dr. Hermann Requardt	Erlangen
Prof. Dr. Thomas Weber	Stuttgart

Committees

DEKRA SE	
Supervisory Board DEKRA SE	
Stefan Kölbl	Chairman, Leinfelden-Echterdingen
Monika Roth-Lehnen	Vice Chairman, Wuppertal [Employee Representative]
Hanna Binder	Stuttgart [Employee Representative]
Prof. Dr. Sabine Fließ	Möhnesee [until Apr. 30, 2024]
Nicolas Gibaudan	Suzette, France [Employee Representative]
Klaus-Jürgen Heitmann	Coburg
Jean-Luc Inderbitzin	Doulevant-le-Château, France [Employee Representative]
Arndt G. Kirchhoff	Attendorn
Stephan Kramer	Henstedt-Ulzburg
Daniel Kusch	Köln [Employee Representative]
Jörg Leiser	Ettlingen [Employee Representative]
Simone Menne	Kiel [since May 01, 2024]
Peter Tyroller	Stuttgart

Management Board DEKRA SE	
Stan Zurkiewicz	Chairman, Stuttgart
Wolfgang Linsenmaier	Freiberg am Neckar
Peter Laursen	DK-Allerød
Petra Finke	Emsdetten

Future Mobility

Shaping the future

Humankind is on the threshold of a mobility revolution which could even rival that sparked by the invention of the car around 140 years ago. The way that people and goods are transported is changing dramatically, with those changes arising mainly due to digitalization, interconnectivity, and sustainability. Even in such a dynamic context, one thing remains unchanged: Mobility has to be safe.

That is why DEKRA is already developing the testing services which will be needed for the technologies and applications of tomorrow. Using our expertise in areas such as automotive cybersecurity, advanced driver assistance systems, and alternative drive concepts, we are helping to shape the transportation of the future.

Sustainability

A factor for success

It makes good sense – economically, environmentally, and socially – for companies to enact sustainable business practices. But sustainability can only become a factor for success if it is pursued, developed and implemented in the context of an integrated strategy.

DEKRA supplies more than 500 individual services, tailored to regional needs, which help companies achieve their own sustainability objectives. These services mean that DEKRA covers the entire life cycle of renewable energy technologies – from planning and design, through production and operation, to dismantling and recycling.

Cybersecurity

Protecting innovation

There are huge benefits to be derived from advances in global interconnectivity and digitalization – but also risks, as companies, institutions, individuals, and countries become vulnerable to cyber attacks.

As an expert in cybersecurity, DEKRA offers an extensive range of testing and certification services that address the specific challenges of individual sectors. By deploying its expertise and innovative methods, DEKRA guarantees that products and systems are secure and comply with statutory requirements and standards.

AI & Advanced Analytics

Secure and trustworthy

It is two years since ChatGPT arrived in the world, and business and society are still grappling with the challenge of how to safely and responsibly harness the enormous potential of artificial intelligence (AI) in such a way that it facilitates innovation and progress.

By applying an integrated approach that spans the entire life cycle, DEKRA is committed to ensuring the security and trustworthiness of AI models and applications. At the same time, as an independent third party DEKRA is able to function as the bridge between innovation in AI and the necessity of regulating it – for example, in connection with the EU's AI Act.

Product Testing

Safe living and consumption

Consumers are experiencing it first-hand: Digitalization and globalization in the retail sector are increasingly leading to higher expectations on consumer products. And those expectations do not solely affect quality and price; products – especially digital and interconnected products – must also be absolutely safe. A 2023 study by the DIN Consumer Council in Germany found that a manufacturer-independent test mark is an important factor in purchasing decisions and that consumers are willing to pay more for safety.

75 percent
In a study by the DIN Consumer Council, three-quarters of respondents said that a safety mark is a factor in their purchasing decisions.
Source: DIN Consumer Council

DEKRA tests the safety of consumer products in respect of their conformity with applicable regulations and standards. Manufacturers around the world trust the experience, methods, and technology deployed by the experts in our organization. What started as just mechanical and electrical testing now encompasses a broad spectrum of digital testing procedures, for wireless technology and cybersecurity for example.

SWITCH 1

Then

Electrical safety
DEKRA's facility at Arnhem in the Netherlands has been testing the electrical safety of devices for many years. Its expertise is based on the experience of KEMA Quality B.V., which DEKRA acquired in 2009. Many products still bear the KEMA-KEUR mark today; since 2021 it has been supplemented with the DEKRA Mark.

Now

Electromagnetic compatibility
With the number of electrical products on the market growing, electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) is gaining in importance. That is why, as early as 2020, DEKRA expanded capacity at the laboratory at its headquarters in Stuttgart, in which it tests e-bikes and e-scooters for conformity with current standards.

Future

Cybersecurity
In 2024 DEKRA awarded the first DEKRA Type Approval (DTA) mark for cybersecurity to a video baby monitor. This product is a representative example of Internet-enabled devices (IoT) designed for use in smart homes – and as such also for the future of product testing. This will focus on the safe use of artificial intelligence alongside cybersecurity – an area in which DEKRA is already well-positioned with its services and projects.

A GLOBAL PARTNER TO GLOBAL BRANDS

Thanks to decades of experience in product testing and the internationality of its organization, DEKRA is the partner of choice for global brands – as evidenced by its work on products for Apple smartphones.

1,126 million
iPhones were sold by Apple between 2020 and 2024 (share of the global smartphone market: 15%).
Source: Statista

In our interconnected world, smartphones, cars, and other devices communicate seamlessly, shaping our everyday life more than ever before. Apple CarPlay makes it possible to use key iPhone functions such as news, music, and apps via the vehicle's display screen, so drivers can stay connected without losing concentration on the road. Apple CarKey takes this convenience a step further, enabling drivers to use their iPhones for

keyless entry and starting of their vehicles, with the ability to safely and easily share access with family and friends.

To ensure the most demanding compatibility and safety standards are met, Apple requires iPhone accessories to be certified in accordance with the "Made for iPhone" (MFi) program. DEKRA has been an authorized MFi testing partner since 2021 and operates specialist testing laboratories worldwide.

With seven locations in the USA, Europe, and Asia, the company is supporting its customers in successfully implementing Apple certification programs for CarPlay and CarKey. Thanks to DEKRA's expertise, consumers can be confident that MFi-tested products satisfy Apple's high standards.

Certification by DEKRA further optimizes the safety, functionality, and user-friendliness of the Apple ecosystem and makes the networked driving experience safer and more intuitive for everyone.

LENOVO IS THE PIONEER

Alongside a smartphone, a laptop has become an indispensable part of professional and private life for many people. Lenovo is the world market leader in this segment. The Chinese producer of electronic products also depends on DEKRA's expertise in connection with future-ready testing.

Most of us are confronted with it every day: The digital transformation has led to an increase in the frequency and complexity of cyber attacks such as malware attacks and identity theft. That is why the EU introduced the Radio Equipment Directive Delegated Act (RED DA). All manufacturers, importers, and distributors that sell wireless devices and products in the EU must satisfy RED-DA cybersecurity requirements.

A Lenovo laptop received the world's first cybersecurity certificate of conformity with RED DA from DEKRA. This certificate underscores Lenovo's commitment to delivering the highest cybersecurity standards to users worldwide.

RED DA certification by DEKRA validates Lenovo's strategic decision to prioritize cybersecurity in both the design and production phases; this approach ensures the laptops can withstand cyber threats and users benefit from greater privacy and data security. For example, Lenovo's laptops ensure that data are protected against unauthorized interception or manipulation during transmission.

SECURE ACCESS TO THE WORLD'S MARKETS

Products from multinational companies such as Apple, Philips, and Lenovo are marketed worldwide. However, before they are launched on the market it must be ensured that they satisfy various regional consumer protection regulations and standards and have received the necessary test marks.

Manufacturers need global partners which are not only familiar with these regulations and standards, but also have the necessary authorization to test and certify products accordingly. DEKRA is one such partner.

DEKRA has been accelerating the internationalization of its business since the early 1990s, and today the company has certified product testing laboratories in North and South America, Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. Global brands benefit from this world-spanning presence, with more than 30 locations in 13 countries.

»We are continuously investing in new and existing locations as well as in state-of-the-art testing technologies and scenarios – for example, to develop rapidly evolving areas of testing such as connectivity, cybersecurity, and artificial intelligence.«

Fernando Hardasmal, Executive Vice President, Service Division Digital Products

SWITCH 2

Then

Reliable conformity with standards
A new phase began in 2016, when DEKRA launched its cybersecurity activities with five experts in Malaga, Spain. Its determination to be a pioneer in this future field was underscored when it acquired Epoche & Espri in 2017; headquartered in Madrid, Spain, this company already had more than a decade of experience and expertise in relation to internationally recognized standards such as Common Criteria (CC), FIPS 140-2, and ISO/IEC 19790.

Now

Driver of innovation and safe solutions
Today DEKRA has a team of more than 200 experts in nine laboratories, making it a key player in the field of cybersecurity. The portfolio encompasses more than 30 services for sectors such as mobility, industry, medicine, consumer products, and information technology. As an established partner to international brands, DEKRA continued to grow its cybersecurity expertise with the 2023 acquisition of Onward Security in Taiwan.

Future

A future marked by trust in digitalization
Services for cybersecurity, functional safety, and artificial intelligence are the basis for the launch of DEKRA Digital Trust Services, which marks a new era in the company's commitment to safety and innovation. Via DEKRA's global network of high-tech testing and certification laboratories, customers from various sectors can obtain confirmation of their innovations from Digital Trust Services, enabling them to bring safe high-tech products and systems to market worldwide.

DEKRA's success in the future field of cybersecurity underscores the company's commitment to safety and security. As an independent third party, DEKRA is dedicated to protecting people worldwide and ensuring that globally available products conform with digital safety standards.

DEKRA

Vehicle Inspection

Ensuring safe mobility in the future

Since it was established 100 years ago, DEKRA has been a byword for safety on the road. Mobility has been evolving constantly during this period, and we are currently seeing it undergo the most radical transformation so far: E-mobility, automation, and connectivity are fundamentally altering the way we experience mobility. However, one question persists: How will mobility continue to be safe in the future?

DEKRA is committed to its mandate of delivering safety on the road, and as such is continuously developing new skills and services for the future of mobility. One example here is DEKRA's fast battery testing – an innovation that is delivering increased transparency in the market for used electric vehicles. This is one way that DEKRA is taking its history into a second century of contributing to the safety of people on the move.

Interview with Christoph Nolte
Head of Vehicles Service Division and Executive Vice President DEKRA Group

In 2022 DEKRA introduced a test that analyzes the state of health (SoH) of batteries in hybrid and electric vehicles. What has been the response to that?

The test arrived at exactly the right time, as the growing number of hybrid and electric vehicles in circulation has led to a corresponding increase of these models in the used market too. But there had previously been no way of independently testing the "heart" of these vehicles – the battery. This is a crucial factor when selling a car because it would be very expensive for a buyer to have to replace the battery.

In brief, how does the test work?

We use a vehicle's onboard diagnosis (OBD) interface to access the battery data while briefly running the vehicle. The actual innovation here is in assessing the measured values by means of a complex algorithm and an extensive database. This database contains basic information from test drives with each type of vehicle and battery at varying levels of charge, at different temperatures, and in a range of ambient conditions. Several AI-based calculations are then performed, which enable our patented process to quickly and accurately measure the battery's SoH. By providing transparency in this way, we are contributing to increased acceptance of used electric vehicles.

The test is currently being refined. How will it be improved?

The test has been and is already very successful. In Europe we have gradually introduced it for more than 130 models, and we are now issuing around 500 certificates every month. However, to provide our customers with more flexibility, we will soon be adding a second testing option that simply requires them to connect the vehicle to a charging station. There are more possibilities too. It would be even simpler if the test could be performed away from the vehicle itself: The battery data could be obtained from the mobility data space that is currently being built using data from all manufacturers and vehicles.

»We are contributing to the acceptance of e-mobility.«

Christoph Nolte, Head of Vehicles Service Division and Executive Vice President DEKRA Group

BATTERY TESTING UNDER EXTREME CONDITIONS

Before a battery is installed in a vehicle it undergoes comprehensive testing and validation processes. In this area too, DEKRA has positioned itself as an expert partner for car and battery manufacturers, suppliers, and authorities. An impressive demonstration of this is the new battery testing center at DEKRA's Lausitzring site in Klettwitz, in the German state of Brandenburg, which will be inaugurated in the fall of 2025.

The state-of-the-art facility for car batteries, as well as high-voltage batteries for other applications, will test and certify safety in a wide range of scenarios, including extreme conditions. Alongside mechanical, performance, and environmental tests, batteries will also be exposed to misuse in situations beyond their normal applications. With this new battery testing center, DEKRA is strengthening the market leadership of the DEKRA Technology Center at the Lausitzring. E-mobility is already of key importance at the facility, which tests the electromagnetic compatibility of charging stations, electric motors, drive axles, inverters, and cables. Services relating to car batteries and fixed power-storage solutions underscore the position of the DEKRA Technology Center as one of the world's most extensive and modern testing centers for the automotive industry.

»In our laboratories in Klettwitz as well as on the track at the DEKRA Lausitzring site, we test vehicles and components in a range of conditions. Our focus topics relating to future mobility include the testing of automated driving functions, connectivity, and cybersecurity. The battery testing laboratory will complement our e-mobility portfolio and enable the testing of high-voltage batteries.«

Erik Pellmann, Head of Department, DEKRA Automotive Testing Center

THE EVOLUTION OF VEHICLE INSPECTION

The new battery testing center and other DEKRA laboratories are working to achieve safety for future mobility, and as an expert organization backed by 100 years of experience DEKRA is already an important provider in road safety. A core part of this is the periodic vehicle inspections DEKRA offers, and which are evolving in parallel with automotive technology.

DEKRA is continuing to work on testing methods for advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS) which are widely in use these days. Such systems include distance controllers, lane-keeping systems, and automated emergency braking systems, all of which rely on the use of sensors.

Developed by DEKRA and its partners, the demonstrator is a simulation device which can test the sensors installed in a vehicle's radiator grille and bumpers by simulating other vehicles and objects. The diagnostic interface in the vehicle can then be used to check what the ADAS sees and therefore how it will react to hazardous situations, as a way of testing the function and correct calibration of the sensors.

This checking of the ADAS sensors and software does not require any complex testing scenarios, however, there are certain prerequisites for enabling the method to be integrated into the vehicle inspection process. For example, ADAS manufacturers need to include a test mode that makes it possible to perform testing while stationary.

SWITCH 1

Then

A good eye and acute hearing
DEKRA is established in 1925, as an expert organization initially focused on truck safety. It begins testing cars in 1961. Alongside supporting technology, DEKRA's experts need a good eye and acute hearing to identify defects in engines, shock absorbers, and brakes.

Now

Accessing and interpreting data
Performing around 32 million tests a year, DEKRA is a global market leader. These days vehicle data are at least as important as visual checks in these tests. The data, accessed via an interface, relate to safety- and environment-relevant components such as airbags and the exhaust system.

Future

Digitalization is changing the focus of inspections
Vehicle inspection is changing radically in response to networked vehicles which are dominated by software. DEKRA and other inspection organizations have defined new focuses for testing and are collaborating in development via the Charter 2030.

PATHWAY TO VISION ZERO

A great deal of progress in road safety has been achieved in recent decades, especially in Germany and other countries that require periodic vehicle inspection. On a global scale however, far too many people still die on roads – around 1.1 million each year.

That is why in 2024 the World Health Organization (WHO) specified periodic vehicle inspection as a key measure for increasing road safety, in its Global Status Report on Road Safety. This recommendation will make it easier to perform regular vehicle safety testing in even more countries.

SWITCH 2

Then

Road traffic as a risk factor

22,000
During the German car ownership boom which followed the Second World War, the annual number of traffic fatalities increased steadily, to a peak of around 22,000 in 1970. Germany is representative of many western industrialized nations in this respect.

Now

Successes in road safety

2,839
Improved vehicle technology, better road infrastructure, and periodic vehicle inspections have led to a significant reduction in the number of traffic fatalities: Germany recorded 2,839 in 2023. The figure was even slightly lower between 2020 and 2022 – a reminder that we should not become complacent about efforts to further improve road safety.

Future

The vision: Zero traffic fatalities

0
Since 2016 DEKRA has been recognizing those cities which have experienced no traffic fatalities for at least five years. The "DEKRA Vision Zero Award" is a trailblazer for a bold ambition which has been pursued by the EU since 2018: Zero traffic fatalities. This is in the context of Vision Zero, which aims to ensure that no one dies on the roads and everyone arrives at their destination.

This ambition is still a long way from becoming reality, with greater efforts still needed at all levels. Nevertheless, the award winners and other cities on the DEKRA Vision Zero map (Link: https://www.dekra-vision-zero.com/) illustrate that there are already places which have achieved this target in most parts of the world. In other words, Vision Zero is not a utopian idea.

Testing systems, equipment, and production media

Safe working and production

Whether they are producing consumer goods or intermediates such as steel and additives for plastics, the safety of the people working in factories is the highest priority. This has been a focus of DEKRA's commitment since 2001, when it established the DEKRA Industrial business area. This now focuses on conventional testing services for industrial assets such as buildings and equipment, as well as sustainability services for production and ambient media such as air and water.

SWITCH 1

Then

Taking a top spot
In January 2005 DEKRA acquired French company NORISKO S.A., and as a result moved into a leading position in the European market for testing services for industrial customers. NORISKO has 2,500 employees and is a top-three provider in France; its industrial business will be merged with DEKRA's to create DEKRA NORISKO Industrial Group.

Now

Broad international positioning
With 6,000 employees in 16 countries and a wide spectrum of expertise, DEKRA is already well-positioned in industrial asset testing. The company is nonetheless continuing to expand its services in this area, in close dialogue with its customers. Digitalization is key here.

Future

Potential of sun, wind, and hydrogen
There is enormous potential in renewable sources of energy such as wind power, hydrogen, and solar power. DEKRA is working towards providing integrated and customized digital services for the safe and reliable planning, construction, operation, and dismantling of relevant systems.

OUT OF THE DANGER ZONE

Human expertise is unquestionably a necessity for the testing of equipment and systems. But inspectors are often exposed to danger, especially in confined environments: Each year there are around 1,000 fatal work accidents in confined spaces worldwide, and more than 100 of these relate to inspections.

4
The hazards relating to work in confined environments can be divided into four categories: Construction, biological, physical, and atmospheric.

40
There are around 40 individual dangers, including slippery surfaces, mold, vibration, and a lack of oxygen.

To protect its own experts as well as customer employees, DEKRA implements a clear strategy of systematically keeping people out of the danger zone.

This strategy relies on three approaches:

- Inspections being performed by robots equipped with ultrasonic and wall-thickness measuring devices.
- Test data being recorded and transmitted by sensors installed in situ.
- Entire systems being digitalized to facilitate data-based predictions (digital twinning).

SWITCH 2

Then

People in the danger zone
Cramped, dangerous, and difficult – all ways of describing previous inspections in confined spaces.

Now

Machines taking the risk
The M1000 is one example of a robot that can replace and therefore protect people during inspections. This Wall-E lookalike is used at DOW Chemicals in France to check pressure vessels for cracks, holes, and corrosion to the enamel coating.

Future

Autonomous inspection
In the future, a wide range of inspection data will be consolidated on a central platform. This development, combined with advanced robot technology, is gradually making autonomous inspections a reality. Such inspections make proactive maintenance easier, reducing downtime and optimizing system performance by means of predictive analysis and automated decision-making.

BIRD'S-EYE INSPECTIONS

Confined environments are one source of hazard – but other inspection situations can also be dangerous for people, for example climbing a cell phone mast.

That is why drones are already being deployed for external inspections. They are capable of recording visual and thermographic data from a structure without exposing a DEKRA employee to potential danger.

Renewable energy production – particularly wind turbines – is one area in which drones are used. These frequently necessitate work being completed at dizzying heights, not least because turbines are getting bigger and bigger.

DEKRA is already using drones to help inspect wind turbines – rotor blades, towers, and lightning protection, for example.

»There are some tasks for which inspectors currently have to abseil down a wind turbine. Deploying automated drones to fly over the towers and rotor blades is a great deal easier. It saves a lot of time and represents a step toward AI-based evaluation of inspection data.«

Sven Dautzenberg, Business Line Manager Wind Energy

Data-based inspections
To inspect industrial assets and structures, a camera or thermographic measuring device is fitted to the underside of a drone. It is likely that the resulting images and measured data will be automatically compared in the future, with the help of artificial intelligence, to make it easier to identify material changes and initiate the necessary protective action and repairs.

The periodic inspection of wind turbines throughout their service life is a key service provided by DEKRA, wherein the access system, pressure vessel, electrical system components, and tower foundation are examined. The full portfolio of services offered to wind power customers encompasses the entire life cycle of a wind turbine – from feasibility studies to expert opinions on continued operation and dismantling. Each year DEKRA conducts 15,000 service activities on onshore and offshore wind turbines in Europe.

DEKRA supports a wind turbine throughout its life cycle. This is one example of how the company is already successfully extending its portfolio of industrial testing services with a 360-degree approach.

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