



Dautphetal, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022

## The future is electrified

*Heck + Becker is supporting the electrification of the Ford site in Cologne and developing high-pressure die-cast components for electric vehicles together with the in-house experts.*



*The project team from Ford and Heck & Becker together with the casted "Motor Housing".*

"Transforming the Cologne plant, where we have operated in Germany for 90 years, is one of the most significant announcements Ford has made in over a generation," said Stuart Rowley, Ford's European chief executive, in Spring 2021. "It underlines our commitment to Europe and a modern future with electric vehicles as a central part of our growth strategy." [1]

"The decision to make the production and development plant in Cologne the electric mobility centre for Ford in Europe is an important signal for the entire workforce," said Martin Hennig, Chairman of the General Works Council of Ford-Werke GmbH. For the site in Cologne, these key decisions are an important part of giving all employees a long-term perspective and encouraging them to help create the electric future. [2]

As a partner of the Ford site in Cologne for decades, Heck & Becker in Dautphetal is involved in this development. "We are delighted that Ford continues to place its trust in Heck & Becker and has placed a large package for the development and construction of high-pressure die-casting dies for the E-Drive platform at Heck & Becker," says managing director Martin Baumann. Over the next two years, high-pressure die casting tools for these E-Drive components will now be developed, designed and built

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[1] <https://www.elektroauto-news.net/2021/ford-koeln-wird-elektroauto-werk-erstes-modell-ab-2023>, retrieved on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022, courteously translated

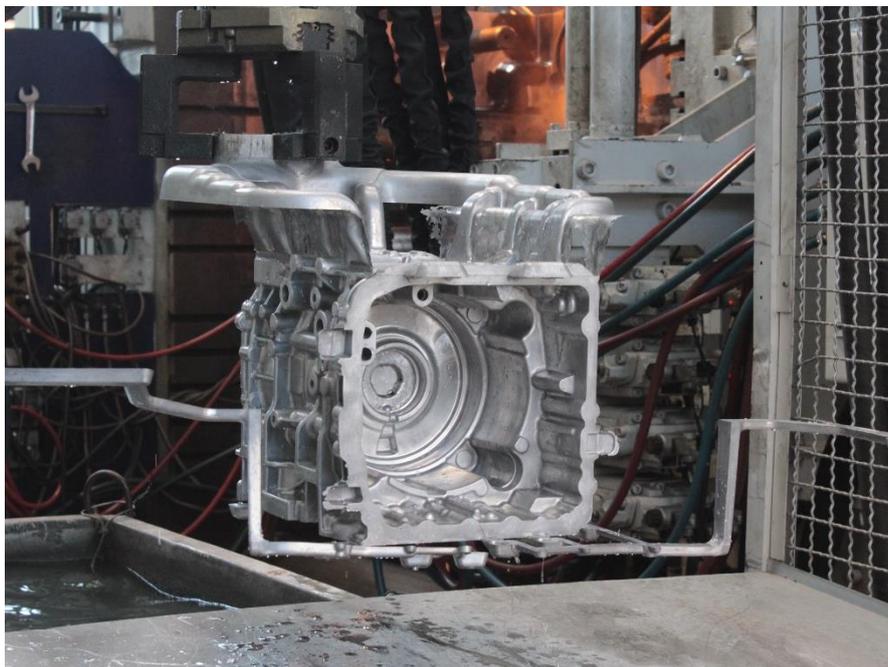
[2] <https://www.ford.de/ueber-ford/highlights-aktuelles/electrification-center>, retrieved on August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022, courteously translated



together with the experts from Cologne. "An important part of the development is the close-to-production testing of the tools in our in-house Die Casting Technology Centre, where we can cast the first components even before the start of series production. This simplifies and shortens the start of series production at Ford tremendously and gives our customer a confident feeling for the start of his production," says Benjamin Jung, member of the executive board at Heck & Becker and responsible for sales and application technology. At Heck & Becker, Ford is omnipresent, as the good cooperation has already lasted for several decades. Of course, this helps a lot because most of the contact persons on both sides know each other and the processes at the other partner are very familiar. "An advantage not to be underestimated in the demanding development of new components", says Benjamin Jung.

The first milestone was reached in late summer: For the "Motor Housing", the heart of the new electric drive, the first high-pressure die-casting tool was successfully sampled last week at Heck & Becker and the first castings were made available to Ford for further processing. A ground-breaking step for all parties of the project. Within the next months further tools for different variants of the "Motor Housing" will be built at Heck & Becker and tested in the Die Casting Technology Centre.

Beyond the subsequent start-up process at the Cologne plant, Heck & Becker will support Ford continuously with optimization process of the tools, continues Benjamin Jung. The vehicle components produced in Cologne will initially be provided for the electric motor production in Halewood (Great Britain). Ford is also investing in this location over the next few years in order to electrify its own vehicle fleet. Afterwards, this type of engine shall be used worldwide.



*In action: One of the first castings of the new "Motor Housing" is extracted by the robot from the high-pressure die-casting machine at Heck & Becker.*