



Newsletter



Experience, Innovations and Superior Quality

Outsourcing of vehicle engineering and manufacturing will play an increasing role in new success stories within the automotive industry. Valmet Automotive is there to contribute to the success of its OEM customers. We can provide the whole range of engineering and manufacturing services tailored to customer needs.

Valmet Automotive's experience and creative innovations in manufacturing and engineering are comprehensive:

- Over 100,000 Porsche Boxster cars produced
- Nearly 1,000,000 cars produced including 740,000 Saab cars and 93,000 Opel cars
- Over 300,000 convertibles produced
- Substantial preparations for future Porsche production on a long-term basis

In the last few years Valmet Automotive has been one of the largest manufacturers of premium convertible cars. We have systematically developed our convertible competence and presented several soft top and hard top concepts over the years. We have also participated in the convertible

development projects of several OEMs such as VW, Audi, BMW, Ford and Mercedes.

Valmet Automotive has built up a readiness for complete car projects together with the leading engineering houses in Europe. In co-operation with ThyssenKrupp Automotive AG, a major global automotive supplier, we provide complete vehicle projects for the OEMs. ThyssenKrupp Automotive has a worldwide presence, and their services range from body parts to complete systems. They also own a 10% share of Valmet Automotive while 90 % is owned by Metso Corporation.

The latest example of Valmet Automotive's innovative development and engineering work is the Audi A4 Coupé Cabrio Concept Car which has its premier at the Geneva Motor Show 2004. It shows our skills in adapting new technical solutions on a base car.

We can seriously say that Valmet Automotive can develop a specialty car out of any OEM model and bring it to the market promptly, cost-effectively and with superior quality. We are known for high quality, flexibility and rapid production start-ups. Furthermore,

simple and innovative solutions and high commitment to customer needs are our trademarks. Everything required is ready: plant, systems, equipment and highly qualified personnel. With Valmet Automotive new vehicle projects are in professional hands.



Tapio Kuisma
President



Team Member Janne From and Quality Manager Ari Ahovirta show the new Certificate.

Valmet Automotive ISO/TS 16949 Certified in December 2003

The management system of Valmet Automotive was granted the ISO/TS 16949 quality standard certificate in December 2003 among the first car manufacturers in Europe. ISO/TS 16949 is an ISO Technical Specification which aligns existing automotive quality system requirements within the global automotive industry.

The system of Valmet Automotive is based on the business process approach. It is also certified to the ISO 14001 environmental management standard and meets the requirements of the OHSAS 18001 occupational health and safety management standard.

- Working in line with the latest standards, which are universally accepted by the car industry, plays a central role in our activities. The quality systems are important tools as they call for continuous improvement and customer-oriented thinking, says Quality Manager Ari Ahovirta.

The Partner Web is a new, interactive tool for the business partners of Valmet Automotive. It is based on web-technology and contains applications for suppliers to production, transport and packaging.

During the pilot phase last year twenty companies were involved and with them the applications were developed further. In the beginning of this year the Partner Web has been introduced to another 200-300 partner companies. The aim is that they will be connected to the system by the end of the year 2004. The suppliers and transportation companies using the Partner Web today are located all over Europe.

The information exchange between Valmet Automotive and its business partners involved in production, transportation and packaging will gradually be concentrated in the Partner Web. This interactive channel provides the partners with real-time access to necessary information, instant feedback and documented paperless communication. It will benefit all the users by improving quality, productivity and competitiveness.



Measuring Specialist Tarmo Mörsky at his work.

New Measuring Center Opened

A completely new measuring center with an area of 400 square meters is now available for all 3D measurements demanding high precision. Thanks to the ultramodern measurement equipment, the dimensional accuracy of the body and measuring capacity are now increased to meet the future demands.

In the measuring center, car parts and sub-assemblies are measured to meet the needs of body shop, assembly shop and product development. Two big 3D measuring devices are even capable of measuring complete car bodies.

Measuring related to the manufacturing of car bodies as well as measuring of incoming car material are very important activities in the center. Also the cubing activities benefit from the equipment as the fitting of the parts is tested in a car body with precise dimensions.

100,000 Porsche Boxster Cars Produced in Finland



The 100,000th Porsche Boxster car was made at Valmet Automotive on 28 August last year. Porsche Boxster's success and its production rate in Finland has exceeded all expectations. Consequently, Porsche AG and Valmet Automotive signed in 2001 a long-term continuity agreement on contract manufacture of Porsche sports cars.

"We are very proud that our co-operation has evolved so well and we have become a long-term partner for Porsche AG" said Mr. Tapio Kuisma, President of Valmet Automotive. Dr. Wendelin Wiedeking, Chief Executive Officer of Porsche AG, emphasised the importance of strategic partnership: "Boxster continues to lead the Roadster segment. Valmet Automotive has given a special contribution to Boxster's success, due to their excellent manufacturing quality."

Valmet Automotive started the series production of Porsche Boxster cars in 1997. One year earlier Porsche had launched the middle-engine roadster as the second model range beside the 911. From the very beginning the demand of Boxster cars was unexpectedly good. In Zuffenhausen Porsche's technical capacity was approx. 30,000 units. When this came to the limit, the decision on additional Boxster production in Uusikaupunki was made.

Valmet Automotive was the only factory which was able to assure a production launch within few months and which was able to meet the high quality standards of Porsche. For Valmet Automotive the agreement with Porsche AG was an acknowledgement of many years' long-standing quality work and specialty car know-how.

The Body Shop Renewed



The new supplier role is important in the development of the process, says project engineer Maija Vaismaa. She is a Black Belt candidate in Six Sigma training program.

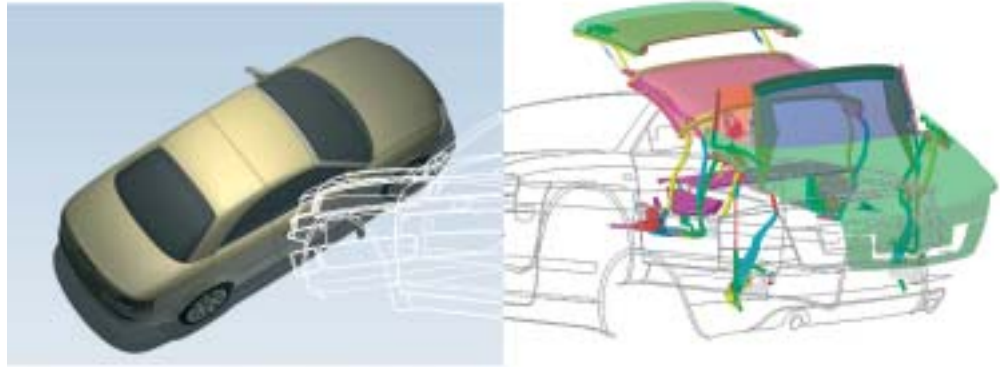
Valmet Automotive has invested substantially in the welding process. Several new assembly cells e.g. for side panel and rear frame beam have enlarged the body shop of Porsche Boxster. Also the integration level of Boxster has increased, and the transports have been streamlined simultaneously.

Valmet Automotive produces and supplies some sub-assemblies also to the Porsche Boxster production at Porsche AG and also as spare parts. The body welding automation rate in the spot welding is approx. 90 %. For example the rear part assembly cell has been automated.

- We consider the sub-assemblies similar end products as finished cars, says project engineer Maija Vaismaa. Our aim is to deliver them promptly and ensure that they fulfil the strict quality demands. For Valmet Automotive the new supplier role is also important in the development of the delivery-to-order process.

The body shop renewal made it possible to remove some ergonomically demanding work phases and therefore there has been an increase in the efficiency and quality of the process. By developing the current manufacturing process Valmet Automotive is also preparing for the coming Porsche production.

New Concept Car in Geneva in 2004



At Geneva Motor Show 2004, Valmet Automotive will present a brand new four-seater concept car with retractable hard top. The concept car is based on Audi A4 Cabriolet.

The concept car has a fully automatic retractable metal roof consisting of three panels. Simple and unique technical solutions ensure short cycle time and smooth operation for the roof.

When the roof is down, it is stowed into an extremely compact package. All the panels are packed parallel. This "onion fold" principle keeps the required space to a minimum. To

further optimise the size of the trunk we even stow the largest i.e. the rearmost panel on the top of the pack. This unique packaging maximises the size of the trunk in retractable cars.

There has been no need for any compromises in the exterior appearance of the concept car. Also the interior is carried over from the original Audi A4 Cabriolet.

As a contract manufacturer of high-quality specialty cars Valmet Automotive helps OEMs to find solutions to create new niche vehicles to satisfy market demand. This concept car

project was carried out in three months and it shows the ideas and know-how of Valmet Automotive. All technical solutions are production friendly and adaptable to new vehicles.



Retractable Glass Roof Concept a Show-Stopper

The Thunderbird Retractable Glass Roof Concept Car was presented in the Geneva Motor Show last year. In spring 2004 it will return to Geneva thanks to the great interest it has generated all around the world during the last 12 months.

After the Geneva Motor Show 2003 the glass roof Thunderbird has been displayed at several ThyssenKrupp inhouse presentations at the major automobile manufacturers in Europe, United States and Japan.

ThyssenKrupp Automotive AG is one of the main suppliers to the Ford Thunderbird supplying for example doors, fenders, hoods, deck lids and grille opening panels. In autumn 2003 the concept car was presented also at the Frankfurt and Essen Motor Shows.



Valmet Automotive is a specialty car manufacturer in Finland. Today we produce Porsche Boxster for Porsche AG. Our facilities in Uusikaupunki consist of body shop, paint shop, final assembly and a product design and development center.

