

VW says cooperation talks with Ford 'close to completion'

June 13 2019



A strong link with Ford would put VW in a better place as a US-China trade conflict rages

Car giant Volkswagen's talks on co-operation with US-based Ford concerning electric vehicles and automated driving are "close to

completion", the German company's chief executive Herbert Diess said Thursday.

The two manufacturers said in January that they would collaborate on vans and pickup trucks, without ruling out building up their alliance in other areas.

"Talks on cooperation with Ford on (electric vehicle platform) MEB and automated driving are going well and are close to completion," Diess told a meeting of almost 500 Volkswagen managers in Wolfsburg.

In March, Diess said Ford could be granted a license to use VW's Modular Electric Toolkit "MEB" platform—the technical underpinnings of all the future [electric cars](#) planned by the German giant.

In exchange, Ford could offer its Argo AI automated driving technology to VW, which this week announced the end of its partnership with American self-driving tech startup Aurora.

According to press reports, Ford and Volkswagen could announce that the German company is taking a stake in Argo AI in the coming weeks.

"The Ford partnership is of paramount geostrategic importance for the company," Diess said Thursday.

"Without a strong engagement in the USA, we risk finding ourselves cornered in global trade conflicts" as "today we are a company very strongly linked to China," he added.

Manufacturers are increasingly banding together to foot the massive investments required to develop next-generation cars.

Mercedes-Benz maker Daimler and BMW—who have been fierce rivals

for years—are working together on automated driving, while BMW is developing electric motors with Jaguar Land Rover.

© 2019 AFP

Citation: VW says cooperation talks with Ford 'close to completion' (2019, June 13) retrieved 27 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2019-06-vw-cooperation-ford.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.