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### Tychy Plant Highlights



#### Introduction

Erected between 1972 and 1975, the Tychy Plant sits on an area of more than 2.4 million m2, with production halls and service buildings taking up 0.5 million m<sup>2</sup>. The FCA Poland plant in Tychy ranks among the largest manufacturing factories in Europe. Coils of sheet metal can be transformed into a finished car in under 12 technological hours. One car rolls off the assembly line practically every 46 seconds.

The Tychy Plant turned out 302,639 vehicles in 2015, including 181,014 Fiat 500 cars, 14,972 Abarth 500 cars, and 57,760 Lancia Ypsilon cars.

Apart from the FCA models, 48,893 Ford Ka cars left the assembly line.



The Tychy
Plant is a true
industrial
community
which plays
host to some
70 businesses
providing
services for
the automotive
industry

The scale of the production output makes the plant an unquestioned leader amona automakers in Poland. The plant is also the largest FCA plant in Europe, as well as the largest regional employer with 3,300 workers. Moreover, the plant premises play host to some 70 businesses which provide services to FCA Poland and thus make the Tychy Plant a true industrial community.



#### **Welding Shop**

The most robotized part of the plant, the Welding Shop, operates as many as 921 robots on a 59 thousand m2 area. 99.5% of welding and pressure welding operations have been robotized, producing huge benefits, such as quality, lower high improved repeatability, and a higher production rate. It is here that car bodies are made from stamped parts supplied by the stamping shop; subsequently, other departments add their own specific components, namely: the Paint Shop applies protective coats and color and Assembly contributes sub-assemblies for a complete vehicle. Here the chassis first meets the sides to make a complete body. The socalled 'open gate' station takes care of alignment before the body is welded together. The next step represents completion, i.e. more sheet metal is added to the body already reinforced with additional welds, depending on the version. Then the vehicle moves on to the finishing line to be fitted with movable parts: covers, doors, and fenders. When the body has passed the final stage, it goes on to the Paint Shop. The entire

welding process takes slightly longer than 2 hours.

The Versaroll line determined the future development of the Welding Shop. Unlike a traditional line with work tables and work performed on the floor, the Versaroll is suspended from a special structure which provides sufficient space to perform



The automated Versaroll line for welding the car sides provides a good example of how the Tychy Welding Shop has optimized their production process: as many as four different models in any configuration may be manufactured on the line without any need to stop it







<sup>\*</sup> The stamping department opened as soon as the Tychy plant was completed. Operations were subsequently contracted out to Delfo Polska in 1998, which has been supplying sheet metal and die stamped parts for FCA Poland production ever since

preparatory work and retooling outside the line.

The Tychy Welding Shop comprises two departments, A and B: one is used for manufacturing Lancia Ypsilon cars and the other for Fiat 500, Fiat 500 Cabrio, Abarth 500, and Ford Ka cars.

#### **Paint Shop**

One of the most modern yet fully environmentally friendly department of this type in Europe, the Paint Shop takes up 45 thousand m². The high degree of automation (close to 90%) guarantees sustained high quality standards.

Car bodies arriving here from the Welding Shop must undergo





preparatory de-greasing before they can be painted. Then, on the phosphatizing and e-coating line, the body is submerged in tubs and the first anti-corrosive coating is applied, followed by the sealing of all the welds and sheet metal joins, which prevents leaking and and provides blowthrough, soundproofing. In the next stage, robots apply a protective coating called mastic that will protect the chassis from damage caused by rocks hitting the bottom. Once the body has been properly prepped. a primer is applied followed by a base coat which gives the body its color, and finally a clear finish coat to make the paint glossy and shiny on one hand and to give additional protection on the other. Application of the base and clear coats is preceded by compressed

air blasting and de-dusting of the car body surface using EMU, which features ostrich feathers and an extractor. The Paint Shop consists of two parts, A and B, with the former built in 1991. This is where Fiat 500 and Lancia Ypsilon cars are painted in 23 different colors, 20 bi-color combinations, and three metallic paints. Solvent based paints are used for the primer and base coats. Paint Shop A capacity amounts to 1,400 bodies per 24 hours.

The new Paint Shop B was added in 2007. Here, Fiat 500 and Ford Ka cars can get 16 different shades of water paints (11 bicolor) at a rate of 920 bodies per 24 hours.

State-of-the-art technologies make it possible to apply paints of various colors on the same line,

When it comes to protection of the environment, the Paint Shop is an unauestioned leader in the FCA Group: it uses the least amount of electric energy to manufacture one car and the savings are further accompanied by the lowest emissions of harmful substances



which means that every car body on the line may be painted a different color. The Paint Shop production cycle lasts 10 hours.

### **Assembly**

The shop occupies an area of 81.5 thousand m² and comprises two production lines, one of which makes Fiat 500 and Lancia Ypsilon cars. Both models are available in 62 versions and 183 trims. The other line is used to make Fiat 500, Fiat 500 Abarth, and Ford Ka cars, all available in 55 versions and 333 trims. Considering the wide range of available engines and transmissions, practically every car can be unique.

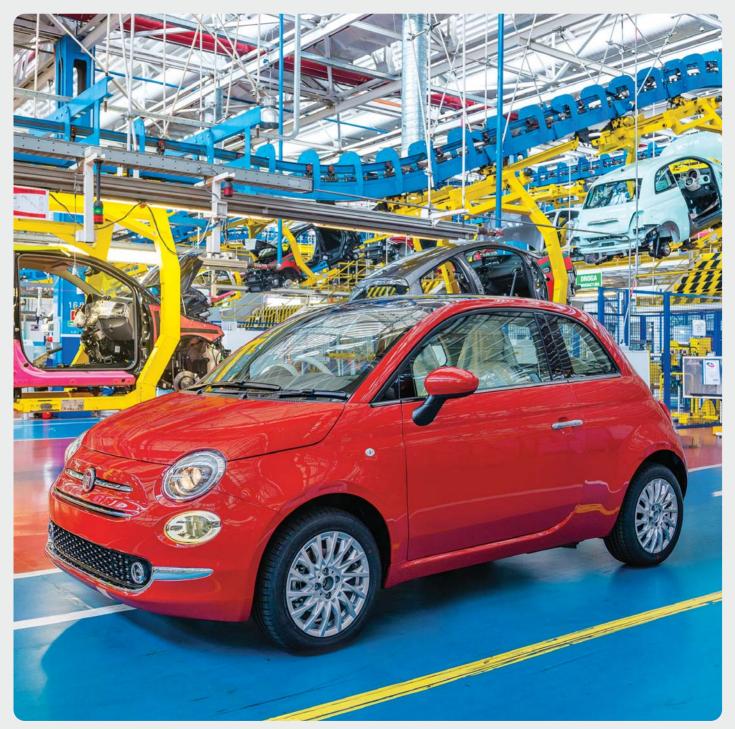
The lines are divided into technological teams. There are two separate door assembly lines where the body assembly team assembles, among others, fuel

brakes, lines. electrical harnesses, roof lining, carpeting, dashboard, windows, and seat belts. The chassis assembly team installs the powertrain, front and rear suspension, the frontend (header panel with the radiator, A/C compressor, fan, and the horn), bumpers, and wheels. Another team deals with the final assembly of the battery. air filter, windshield wipers, seats, and the complete doors. They also inspect the electrical systems for errors. Before it reaches the dealer, the complete car is subjected to very detailed and strict trials and testing in order to assure the highest quality. Currently, 1,200 cars leave the production lines every two shifts. The assembly cycle takes on average 6.35 hours.



Over the last few years, the assembly line experienced a huge technological leap forward, optimizing the production process and reorganizing work stations thanks to the implementation of World Class Manufacturing









### History of the Plant



### **The Early Years**

The cornerstone for the future assembly plant in Tychy was laid over 40 years ago. Modeled on the Fiat plant in Cassino, Italy, the project was completed in 1972-1975.

The former Plant No 2 in Tychy, today simply called the Tychy Plant, became a part of FSM, a state-owned multi-plant industrial complex in Bielsko-Biala designed to make the 126p model under a Fiat license. The first cars rolled off the Tychy assembly line on September 18, 1975, not quite two years following the model launch in Plant No 1 in Bielsko-Biala. Production of the Fiat 126p continued in Tychy for 16 years

until, in 1991, the entire production was moved to Bielsko-Biala. makina room the Cinquecento model. No one likely even suspected at the time that the production of Fiat 126p would go on for another 27 years. Altogether, 3,318,673 units left the assembly lines, of which the Tychy plant accounted for 2,166,349 cars. When the last Fiat 126p left the plant in Bielsko-Biala on September 22, 2000, Fiat Auto Poland resolved to continue assembling cars solely in Tychy: it did not make much sense to operate an assembly plant whose output had been seriously downgraded and, in any case, all the bodies had to be taken to Tychy for painting. Shortly thereafter, Fiat also moved to Tychy the production of Fiat Siena, Fiat Uno (manufactured until 2002), and Fiat Palio Weekend (manufactured until 2004), while Bielsko-Biala plant henceforth focused on mechanical aspects. Today, it is one of Fiat's strategic industrial centers making 1.3 Multijet compression ignition engines and 0.9 TwinAir gasoline engines.

Let us go back, however, to the early 70's. In order to cover the costs of a new model launch, the annual 126p production of 150 thousand units originally planned for both Tychy and Bielsko-Biala was eventually upgraded to 200 thousand cars. The location chosen for the new plant was to allow for doubling the production by expanding and constructing new production halls in the future. Tychy fit the bill perfectly because they offered large, flat, and regularly shaped areas of land, with easy access by road and rail plus options to hook up to various power sources. It is for all those reasons that Tychy was chosen over, say, Bielsko-Biala or any other town in Upper Silesia. Out of total of 1.6 million m<sup>2</sup>,

Production of the Fiat 126p car, for which the

126p car, for which the Tychy Plant was erected, continued for 27 years

220,000 m<sup>2</sup> of the property was soon taken up by modern industrial and halls service buildings. In its twenty-one year long history, however, FSM never doubled the production, farsighted as the idea was at the time. It was only in the 90's, especially in the first decade of the new century, that Fiat Auto Poland saw any significant growth over a few stages of the plant expansion. The year 2009 proved to be record-setting when the Tychy production reached 606 thousand cars. The overall plant premises grew to their present-day size, i.e. 2.3 million m<sup>2</sup>, of which 500 thousand m<sup>2</sup> now include enclosed areas, such as production halls and other service buildings.

Construction of the new Tychy plant began on January 1, 1972, as soon as the Small Engine Plant (FSM) had been set up and Katowickie Przedsiębiorstwo Budownictwa Przemysłowego (Katowice Industrial Construction Enterprise) was appointed general contractor. The plan called for an assembly plant with a complete production cycle that would include a stamping department, welding shop, paint shop and assembly. The latest technologies of the day, never before used in Poland and mostly imported from Italy or Germany, were applied to build and equip the production halls.



The welding shop, for instance, was equipped with a semi-automatic line for welding the floors, which made it possible to automate the welding of the car floor, sides and the roof within the body structure at the rate of one hundred welds per minute. The line represented a huge technological leap compared to, say, manual operations still used to make the Syrena car in Bielsko-Biala. Similarly, other departments were also equipped with the latest technology: the Paint Shop, which had to meet the most stringent quality and corrosion protection requirements, featured spray phosphatizing equipment, submersion electrophoretic priming and electrostatic coating with base and finish paints.



Construction of the Tychy Plant started on January 1, 1972 and soon new industrial halls and service buildings began rising over an area of 220,000 m<sup>2</sup>



FSM production departments got the latest technologies at that time, mostly imported either from Italy or Germany



#### The Fiat 126p Era

Production using advanced technology represented just one of the basic conditions underlying the future license agreement that would include funds for the investment project, assignment of fifty thousand of finished cars to Fiat (Fiat intended to sell them in West European markets using its own distribution network), 820 thousand engines (all made in Bielsko-Biala), and a number of various spare parts.

The production plan that called for 200 thousand Fiat 126p cars to be manufactured both at the Bielsko-Biala and Tychy plants was reached in 1979 and maintained – with minor variations – for another ten years. The year 1980 set a

record when 182 thousand cars left the Tychy plant. Beginning that year, higher export volume drove up the plant output as Fiat had stopped making the "126" in Italy and was gearing to start selling the model manufactured in Poland under its own brand, using its own sales organization in Europe.

The decision meant special recognition for the FSM plant, a distinction never granted to any licensed manufacturer before. For the Italians. the decision amounted to a litmus test of sorts prior to committing themselves to any future investment projects in Poland. Several vears later, buttressed by successful experiences. Fiat resolved to start the production of an entirely new, strategically important Fiat model at the Tychy plant, which was to become the sole manufacturer of the Cinquecento slated for sale in all European markets.

Having peaked in 1989 at 207 thousand Fiat 126p cars (in Tychy and Bielsko), the production gradually began dropping in subsequent years: down 190 thousand in 1990 and 124 thousand in 1991. Following move the to Bielsko-Biala. production reached only 61 thousand in 1992. In the meantime, Tychy launched the Cinquecento model in June of 1991, making 6 thousand cars by the end of that year and another 83 thousand in 1992.

## Cinquecento Transforms the Tychy Plant

In 1987, the Polish government signed a license agreement with Fiat to make the Fiat Cinquecento at the Tychy plant. The agreement provided for the upgrade and expansion of the plant, which would allow for 240 thousand cars being made per year.

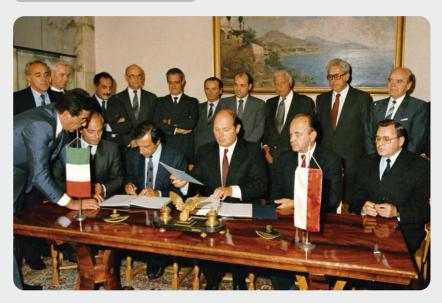
This spelled the end of the socalled "Maluch" car (called "The Little One" because of its size) and the beginning of a new chapter in the Tychy plant history. In order to start making the Cinquecento, the Tychy plant had to change, as well as welcome the latest technology, which would be of key importance to its future growth. Every department underwent restructuring and adaptation needed to meet the requirements of the new model. The stamping department was equipped with modern automated machinery, while in the welding shop and assembly area 90 Comau robots plus suspended trolleys for transporting sub-assemblies were installed. In April 1992, a new paint line was completed - one of the latest and most environmentally friendly in Europe. The plant automated introduced an warehouse management program

and vehicle assembly took place along the lines to which subassemblies staged earlier in other areas and subject to strict technical and quality control were gradually supplied.

It was not just a major technological challenge; the company organization and management also evolved, following a revolutionary change of its operations principle in the latter half of the 90's, when the latest international quality standards were adopted and the employees taught a new approach to their job based on production workers' selfcertification and the focus on customer-oriented top quality. The new model incorporated Japanese concept of an "integrated factory" (Lean Production) and became initially known at the plant as the "Efficient Factory" model. Gradual implementation additional world standards, such as Productive Maintenance (TMP), allowed the Tychy plant to become ISO 9001 certified in 1996, making Fiat Auto Poland the first Fiat Group company to win such a prestigious international distinction in recognition of its high quality production.

Meantime, the premises of the plant expanded to 1.9 million m<sup>2</sup>, which included 380 thousand m<sup>2</sup> of covered space, and the Tychy production kept pace, growing from 192 thousand cars in 1993 to

Cinquecento transforms the Tychy Plant. A license agreement signed to manufacture a Fiat model in Tychy the production of the Fiat Seicento which - regardless of other models being launched, i.e. Panda and 500 - would continue until May, 2010 (using the name



211 thousand in 1996, and 253 thousand in 1998. In 1999, once the SKD system for assembling major Fiat models earmarked for the Polish market was installed. the output reached 271,920 units, marking the beginning of the socalled Seicento era. It would be another seven years before it passed the 300 thousand milestone, with both the Fiat Seicento and Panda models being manufactured.

The Cinquecento production continued until 1998, reaching 1,164,525 cars altogether. In the meantime, the Tychy Plant started



"600" beginning in 2005). All in all, 1,328,973 units were made.

# The 870 Million Euro Technological Leap

Following the record high of 1999, production at the Tychy Plant, essentially based on the Seicento model, fell in 2002 to below 159 thousand cars. Without a new model or new investment projects and without another quality leap or new technology, the plant would not be able to survive. The Fiat Group faced difficult times when Giovanni Agnelli passed away in early 2003, soon to be followed the next year by his brother Umberto, a period of major financial and economic problems. Nevertheless. the

Polish employees of Fiat did not lose hope; they focused on continuous improvement and waited for production revival. Despite a market downturn, the plant worked on improving its quality management system, becoming eventually one of the most respected and admired organizations both of the Fiat Group and in Europe. Another ISO certificate of integrated quality, environmental, health and

reconfirmed values and characteristics of the Tychy Plant, its high quality of production, and its cost awareness, that the Fiat management in Turin decided yet again – just as in the case of the Cinquecento – to assign to Tychy the production of a new strategic segment A model. That model was the new Panda, which quickly gained great popularity with customers.

The scale of investment carried



occupational safety system, obtained in 2002 and preceded by the first one of 1996, best illustrates the progress the plant made. This, however, was but a foretaste of its future quality successes which would continue after the year 2000 for another decade, until today, when in early December, 2013, the plant won the Gold Level World Class Manufacturing medal.

It was precisely for the oft

out in Tychy for the first Panda launch in 2003 and later, in 2007, for that of the Fiat 500 was overwhelming: 870 million euros in all. Furthermore, there were capital outlays in Bielsko-Biala of 400 million euros to launch the production of the Multijet 1.3 turbo diesel engines. The Panda with the new engine had now become a 100 percent Polish product. No other car maker came close to the scope of Fiat's





7

Only the Tychy
Plant managed to
turn out two
"cars of the
year"
simultaneously:
Fiat Panda and
Fiat 500.
In 2009, the plant
reached a record
production
making more
than 605
thousand cars

investment in this country. With 400 robots in use, 304 of which worked on the Panda welding line, the Tychy Plant had thus moved to the forefront of Europe's technologically advanced factories.

Plans to bring production of additional new models and to increase production capacities resulted in investment projects going on for a few more years. Plant expansion and modernization continued throughout 2007 and 2008 and covered all the industrial areas, with the number of robots reaching 950. 7,200 m<sup>2</sup> of new space with robotized lines was added to the welding shop and every welding station was equipped with optoelectronic control devices that performed non-contact measurements of the entire car body using an optical beam.

The assembly department received a new production hall of 30 thousand m2 where two new lines were installed. The new Paint Shop capable of handling over 720 car bodies per day was later upgraded to handle 920. The new shop joined an existing paint shop, first opened in 1992, which was also expanded. The company thus boosted its daily production capacity to 2.120 cars, only to arow it further in the future. Seventeen years after purchasing the FSM plant, Fiat doubled the size of the plant and tripled its capacity, exceeding even the boldest projections the engineers who had designed it in the early 70's.

### One Plant, Two Cars of the Year

The investment program proved to be a true watershed for the Tychy Plant. In a short period of time, the plant boasted two models that had won Car of the Year awards. No other plant in Europe had ever turned out two "cars of the year" simultaneously, and the production literally took off.

In 2007, the first year the Fiat 500 was made, 361,787 cars rolled off the lines, with Pandas accounting for 261 thousand. Data for the following year, however, appears simply incredible: high demand in Europe. spurred on bv environmental subsidies offered by governments and sizable investment growth, pushed the production first to 492,885 cars (2008) and then, the following year, to a record number of 605.797 cars. of which Pandas accounted for 298 thousand and Fiat 500 (together with the Abarth version) for 184 thousand.

The year 2009 saw a new car leaving the lines in Tychy every 35 seconds, with daily production



output reaching a record level of 2,320 units. More than half of all the cars manufactured by Fiat in Europe that year were cars made in Tychy.

At the end of 2010, the plant was also entrusted with the production of the Lancia Ypsilon, but the worldwide economic downturn caused the European demand to shrink visibly compared to the previous vear boom. This adversely impacted the size of the Tychy Plant production to such a degree that in 2013, following the inevitable elimination of one shift, it dropped to 295,700 cars. The year 2013 also proved remarkable by the absence of the Panda whose production came to an end after a ten-year successful run which had produced a total of 2,168,491 cars. The Tychy Plant responded to the crisis in its traditional way - with specific action. As a result, on December 6, 2013, the plant won the Gold Level World Class Manufacturing medal.

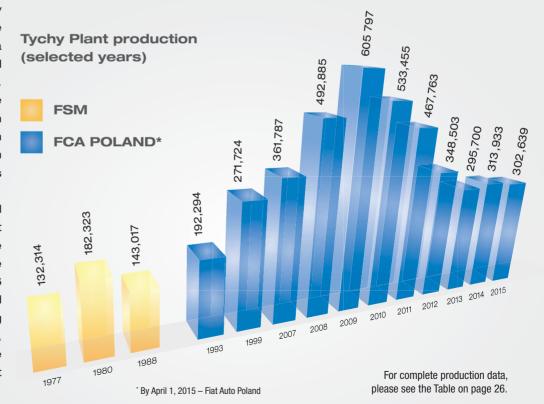
For the last two years, the total output of the Tychy plant exceeded 300 thousand cars due to sustained high demand for the 500 model: in 2015, more than 196 thousand customers purchased the model worldwide (including both the Fiat and Abarth brands), reinforcing its position as the unchallenged leader in this market segment.

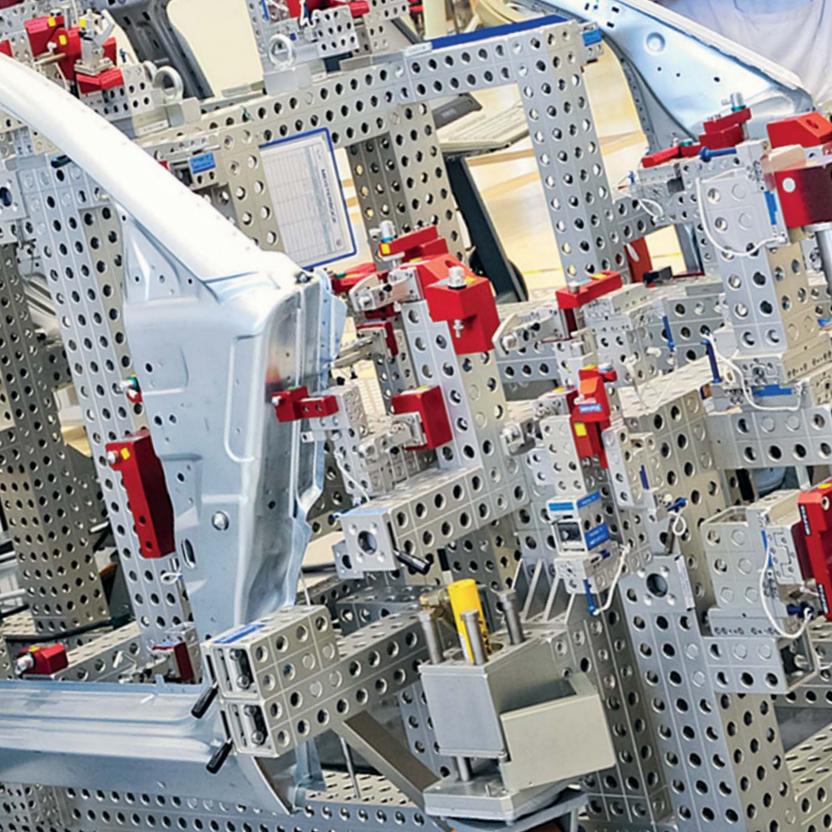
Fiat 500 production volume further supports this claim as for nine years now it has been running close to 200 thousand vehicles a year, and only once – one year after the Fiat 500 had debuted in 2008 – the number was higher.

Eight years later to the day, on July 4, 2015, Fiat revealed in Turin another version of the model manufactured in Tychy. That same vear. the plant launched production of а new. fifth generation of Lancia Ypsilon that premiered at the Frankfurt Auto Show on September 17. The Tychy



plant invested € 100 million to launch both models, a sum which does not include another € 60 million invested in the Polish suppliers of FCA Poland.







### The Tychy quality. From ISO 9001 to Gold Level WCM

#### **Focus on Quality**

The automobile is one of the most advanced technologically products commonly used that can consist of upward of 5 thousand parts, each with its own design. research. technical production process, all of which guarantee top quality. The cycle is underpinned by the specialized knowledge the Tychy Plant steadily encourages its employees to gain. The plant also aims to mold the employees' outlook as well as a special emotional approach to new problems; it emphasizes teamwork and partnership among all of the production process stakeholders; and it stresses another important aspect - the focus on the customer, both final and internal. Standardization and self-certification play a key role in assuring top quality. Standardization means creating optimal conditions for individual operations, which in turn results in quality product as well as strict enforcement of best practices, whereas self-certification means employees assume responsibility for the work they perform.



Self-certification has been implemented and improved in the Tychy Plant for many years. So much so, in fact, that it has now become an inseparable component of the company technical culture, and mutual trust and appreciation. The plant also supports auto activation, or the employee's prompt response to problems and corrective action. The so-called Andon notification system managed online has been incorporated into a special program: as soon as a line operator detects a problem, he turns on a red light; the team leader, who sets up the work team and launches the problem solving procedure, then proceeds to rectify the problem. All operations are tracked online and the data is made available to individuals responsible for quality in real time. The problem as well as its possible solutions are then analyzed in special meetings called "One Point Lesson".

One cannot turn out top quality product without the cooperation of one's parts and sub-assembly suppliers. For many years now, all



The employee promptly responds to any problems, and everything is recorded on-line

our suppliers have followed the auto certification system. That means they deliver products that do not require prior inspection to the production lines. It is a question of trust and the result of the FCA Poland-managed supplier development and shared quality policy.

The Tychy Plant is well familiar with customer expectations. Its IT system allows for prompt response to any changes in market demand. Customer questionnaires conducted by third parties represent an important tool of the system since their results facilitate introduction of any necessary modifications at the car design phase as well as any improvements to the existing models. In addition, the plant utilizes other types of product and process quality control instruments and, finally, advanced diagnostic methods and continuous improvement. The questionnaires include so-called customer perspective tests. including the CPA (Customer Product Audit) indicator evaluate the car's visual appeal as well static its dynamic functionality. The latter cover statistical methods of process control - SPC (Statistical **Process** Control). Problem Solving, Six Sigma, and numerous others.



## Lean Production and ISO Certificates

Striving to maintain top quality at all times is a never-ending challenge. Abandoning it would mean а step backwards accompanied by auality deterioration. In the 90's, after Fiat took over. everv Cinquecento leaving the plant required some minor adjustment once it rolled off the assembly line and before it made its way to a dealer showroom. The defects caused the plant a lot of headaches, both logistical and organizational, that generated additional costs and waste of time and money.



Car performance testing carried out from the customer's point of view allows for strict product quality and process control and thus makes it possible to introduce any necessary changes already at the car design stage and to further improve the existing models

That was the story in the first few years after the FSM buyout: years of intensive training (83 thousand training hours for 1993-1996), but primarily years of reorganization, since top quality will remain elusive without employee commitment. Quality is something inside us; something that is born from our way of thinking, our attitude toward work, from thousands of decisions we take and our everyday conduct. The plant must develop its own corporate culture, spread it widely among the staff, and create а specific "technical environment" conducive continuous improvement, evolution, and willingness to meet new challenges.

At the time, no one in Europe had yet come up with standard quality management models that would resemble contemporary solutions. Motivated by surprisingly good results obtained in the countries of the Far East, as well as stiff market competition, European manufacturers had been looking for methods that could compete with the Japanese factory model. those days. ISO 9001 (International Standard Organization) quality standards had been gaining popular recognition in Europe and had succeeded defining in the groundwork of modern quality: customer oriented approach,

employee commitment. leadership, teamwork, process approach, result measurability, and continuous improvement. For the Polish factory which had just emerged after trying times from a backward system that promoted quantity over quality it was an ideal opportunity to show its potential and willingness to work as the youngest member of the Fiat Group family, Since 1995, the plant had been focusing on implementing a new methodology called "Efficient Factory" or "Lean Production" (the term "efficient" became more popular in Poland as better fitting the local reality than the literal translation of the English term "lean"), developed for an integrated model of an Italian factory and implemented by Fiat in all its plants. The idea was 'flatten' the organizational structure of the company and make it more flexible so that it can respond more quickly to signals from the market and the outside environment. Doing this called for improving employee knowledge and competencies, enabling them to resolve problems right at the point of origin; for stimulating initiative, building teamwork, and systems thinking. The traditional division - between those who think and those who execute instructions, or those who do the job and those who inspect it - had

to be abandoned. What was needed was a transition to a work system based on self-certification of the line workers and preventive maintenance of machinery and (Total Productive systems Maintenance). As a result, in September of 1996, Fiat Auto Poland (actually FCA Poland) obtained an ISO 9001 Quality Assurance Certificate awarded by TÜV CERT. RWTÜV division. Polish Center for Testing and Certification (PCBC) and IQ Net. For the first time in Europe, RWTÜV certified the entire automotive plant, including the integrated system - from design to after sales service. Fiat Auto Poland became the first company in the Fiat Group to win the ISO certificate.

Over the course of years, the company continuously displayed

September
5, 1996
Fiat Auto
Poland receives
an ISO 9001
Certificate.
In the picture,
Diego Avesani,
FAP General
Director at the
time, center



its commitment to quality by updating and expanding the scope of certain earlier certificates. Apart from having its 1999 certificate extended, the Tychy Plant won an ISO 4001 environmental management system certificate in 2001. In early 2002, it obtained an ISO 9001:2000 certificate introducing the so-called "process approach"



to company management". As the most momentous event of September 2002, the company obtained an integrated management system certificate proving it had complied with the quality management (ISO 9001:2000), environmental management (ISO 14001), and occupational safety (PN-N-18001) requirements.

## Quality Awards in Poland and Europe

It did not take long for the results to become evident. The plant was steadily improving all the quality parameters, both internal and external. When in 2003 Panda first arrived on the market, the media had already been reporting the "Japanese quality" offered by the plant in Tychy. By then, 94 percent of all the cars off the Tvchv assembly line could go directly to dealer showrooms without any additional intervention. Only one Panda out of seventeen required some very minor correction, usually of a slight defect occurring at the end of the line. Exactly as in a Japanese factory.

Yet the Tychy Plant did not rest on its laurels because it viewed quality improvement as ongoing process. Rather than sit back and relax, the management decided to participate in some very prestigious auality competitions both in Poland and Europe, beginning with the Polish Quality Award (PNJ) in the "Large Manufacturing Organizations" category which the plant won on November 11, 2004. distinction is awarded annually by the Polish Center for Testing and Certification, National Chamber of Commerce, and the Polish Forum ISO 9000 Club. The competition promotes total quality

### Z

The extreme attention paid to quality that characterized the production beginning with the mid-90's paid off: in 2004, the plant won the Polish Quality Award medal. The competition recognized the plant for implementing a continuous improvement policy, state-of-the-art quality assurance methodology, and promotion of qualityfocused approach among the employees. On the left: Zdzisław Arlet, the then Plant Director, and his staff









management and rewards leading Polish companies for excellence. PNJ their The Committee looks for compliance with certain indicators, such implementation of Total Quality Management, continuous management improvement. application of the latest quality assurance systems, or promoting quality-enhancing attitudes among the staff.

The success motivated the company to aspire to certain European models. Soon thereafter, the Tychy Plant implemented the EFQM Management Model (European Foundation for Quality Management) and in a competition which evaluated its implementation (14th European Quality Award), Fiat Auto Poland was awarded an "EFQM Recognized for Excellence 2005" diploma. In 2006, the Tychy Plant joined a select group of EEA (EFQM Excellence Award) finalists, considered a "premium league" of the best managed organizations. In the meantime, the Tychy Plant successfully moved along its development path initiated under the International Standard Organization in 1996. In 2008, PCBC and TÜV NORD auditors awarded the plant a Quality Management System Certificate of Compliance according to PN-EN ISO 9001:2009 standard. Then, in 2012, the Tychy Plant was the first Fiat Group company to implement an energy management system according to ISO 50001 standard, which calls for reduction of costs and greenhouse gas emissions, as well as more efficient use of energy.

# WCM Brings about a Breakthrough

With a view to standardize procedures in all the Group companies and to give rise to a healthy intra-Group competition, Fiat management resolved to World implement Class Manufacturing in 2006, or an integrated business management methodology based on the best world standards of occupational safety, environmental protection, maintenance, logistics. and quality. World Class Manufacturing encompasses traditional management models already well-known to the company, i.e. Total Quality Control, Total Productive Maintenance. Total Industrial Engineering, Just-in-Time, and Lean Manufacturing. Furthermore, by integrating them all into one model, WCM adds an economic aspect to measure and evaluate every problem, regardless of its nature.

Consisting of ten managerial and ten technical pillars, the system takes the plant through three **→** 

6 grudnia 2013 r. zdobycie przez Zakład Tychy Gold WCM. Poniżej: jedna z prezentacji podczas audytu

levels (Bronze, Silver, Gold) before the plant can reach the highest World Class Level. WCM Association experts perform annual external audits in order to verify continuous improvement of production performance gradual waste reduction while maintaining top product quality maximum and flexibility responding to customer expectations. The goal may be attained only through employee motivation: involvement and consequently, each team takes action aimed at their own improvement projects ("kaizen" in Japanese): zero defects, zero breakdowns, zero losses, zero warehouse surplus.

One of Fiat's major WCM aspects involves arranging for all its plants worldwide to communicate using consistent technical language in order to facilitate dissemination of the best practices implemented in individual plants and thus to use a uniform result evaluation methodology. The latter plays a key role in making the right decisions on where to place production of new models.



### Gold Level World Class Manufacturing

In 2007, less than a year after the implementing new methodology, and yet again as the first organization within the Fiat Group to do so, the Tychy Plant won the Bronze Level WCM. That same year, the key one for launching the Fiat 500 production, the plant showed it was ready to further improve the already high quality and manufacturing indicators achieved by the Panda model. This was supported by the FTQ (First Time Quality) indicator which showed what percentage of cars would go from the assembly line directly to showrooms, once the process and all the inspection operations had been completed. By now, only two out of every hundred cars required minor endof-the-line corrections while 98



percent were being promptly released as "OK".

It was an exceptional result when we consider that the quality leap took place on the heels of a difficult and profound transformation accompanied by a substantial production growth which necessitated significant investment and massive new jobs. Let us not forget that new

employees had to be trained thoroughly while the production capacity grew rapidly in a few years from 1,250 cars per day in 2006 to 2,320 per day in 2009, a record year. Whereas earlier one new Panda rolled off the production line every 60 seconds, in 2009 the time interval in between was shortened to 35 seconds. The result proves the master performance of the Tvchv Plant, one that would have been impossible without consistent application of the WCM.

In 2014 and 2015 it gained more points, confirming its Gold Level position as one of 5 plants of the FCA Group.

WCM audits take place every year and the quality improvement is reflected by the ever higher



### WORLD CLASS MANUFACTURING

scores. Tychy won the Silver Medal in 2009 and the Gold Medal on December 6, 2013. Apart from accolades and testimonials. awards and distinctions, the most important aspect of the WCM appears to be motivational effect and financial results. The employees realize there is no time to lose: the plant is regularly monitored and the bar keeps rising.

The struggle for the best quality never ceases, even after achieving the WCM maximum score of 100 points because - truly - the top score represents but a conventional goal.

Let us remember the not-sodistant past - the technological leap which took place when the Cinquecento model was first made here, followed by Panda and later by Fiat 500 and Lancia Ypsilon cars. The great improvement, or "kairyo" in Japanese, realized thanks to major technological innovations, is not enough to assure future top quality. Full commitment of the crew and small steps forward supported thousands of "kaizens" implemented by the employees day after day play a crucial role. And they know this in Tychy well, because their ranking in the automotive world depends on it.

### **Quality Time Line**

1995 Lean Production implemented

**1996** Total Productive Maintenance implemented

1996 ISO 9001 Certificate

1997 Total Quality Management system implemented

**2001** ISO 14001Certificate (environmental management)

2001 ISO 9001:2000 Certificate

2002 ISO Integrated Total Quality Management ISO 9001:2000), Environmental Protection (ISO 14001) and Occupational Safety Certificates (PN N 18001)

2004 Polish Quality Award (PNJ)

2005 "EFQM Recognized for Excellence 2005" diploma in the EFQM European Quality Award competition (European Foundation for Quality Management)

2006 EFQM European Excellence Award EEA – finalist (EFQM Excellence Award)

**2006** World Class Manufacturing (WCM) implemented

2007 Bronze Level WCM

2008 PN-EN ISO 9001:2009 Certificate

2009 Silver Level WCM

2012 ISO 50001 Certificate (energy management)

2013 Gold Level WCM

2014-15 Subsequent WCM audits not only scored additional points for the plant but also confirmed its Gold Level status

# Attachments

### **Tychy Plant Time Line**



- **1971** Agreement to manufacture the Fiat 126p in FSM signed (October 29)
- **1972** Construction started on a new plant in Tychy
- 1973 First Fiat 126p cars leave the assembly line in Bielsko-Biala
- 1975 First Fiat 126p cars leave the assembly line in Tychy



- 1980 Fiat 126p production at the Tychy Plant reaches 182 thousand, setting a record for the 16-year-long production run of the model
- 1987 License agreement for making the Fiat Cinquecento signed (September 9)





- **1991** Cinquecento production launch. Fiat 126p model production in Tychy discontinued after reaching 2,166,349 units
- 1992 Fiat Auto Poland set up (May 28).

  A new paint shop, one of the most environmentallyfriendly in Europe, opens in Tychy



- **1996** ISO 9001 Quality Assurance Certificate
- 1997 The plant reaches the
  1 million Fiat
  Cinquecento milestone.
  Fiat Seicento
  production launch



- 1998 Fiat Cinquecento production run ends after making 1,164,525 units
- **1999** The plant output reaches 272 thousand cars, a record year for the 90's

- 2001 ISO 14001 Certificate (environmental management)
- 2002 ISO Integrated Total
  Quality Management,
  Environmental Protection
  and Occupational Safety
  Certificate



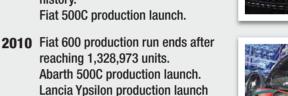
- 2003 Fiat reaches the 1 million Fiat Seicento milestone.Fiat Panda production launch.Fiat Panda 4x4 production launch
- 2005 Fiat wins "EFQM Recognized for Excellence 2005" diploma in the EFQM European Quality Award competition (European Foundation for Quality Management)



- **2006** EFQM European Excellence Award EEA finalist (EFQM Excellence Award)
- 2007 Fiat reaches the 1 million Fiat Panda milestone.
  Bronze Level WCM.
  Fiat 500 production launch

- **2008** Abarth 500 and Ford Ka production launch
- 2009 Silver Level WCM. Tychy Plant production reaches 605,797 cars, a record volume in the plant history.

  Fiat 500C production launch.



2012 Fiat Panda production run ends after reaching 2,168,491 units. ISO 50001 Certificate (energy management)

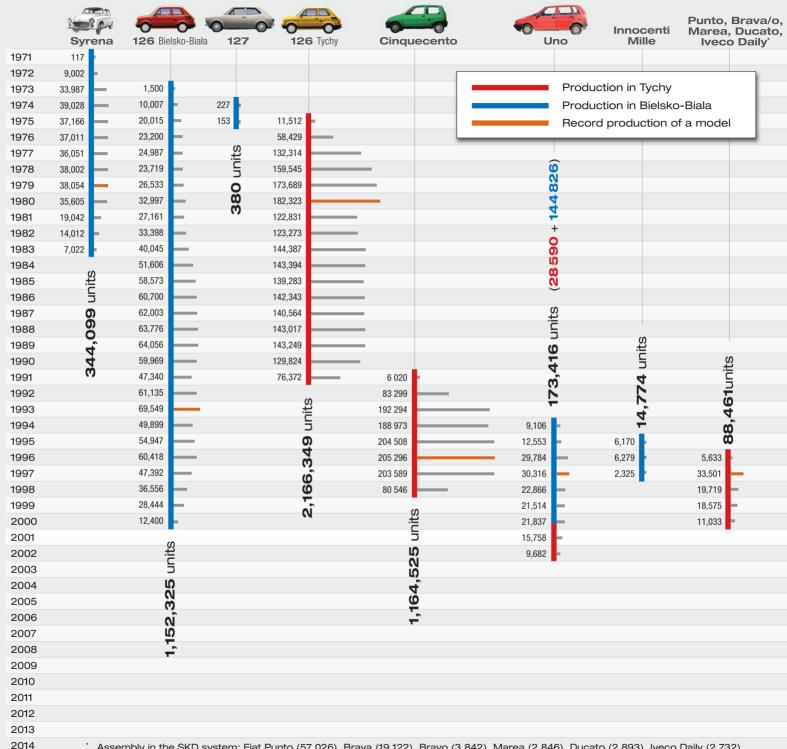
in December



- **2013** Fiat 500 production run ends. Gold Level WCM (December 6)
- 2015 The Tychy Plant launched production of an updated Fiat 500 model (unveiled on July 4) and Lancia Ypsilon (September 17). On November 10, the plant witnessed the last Fiat 500 car of the first one and a half million made, roll off the plant floor



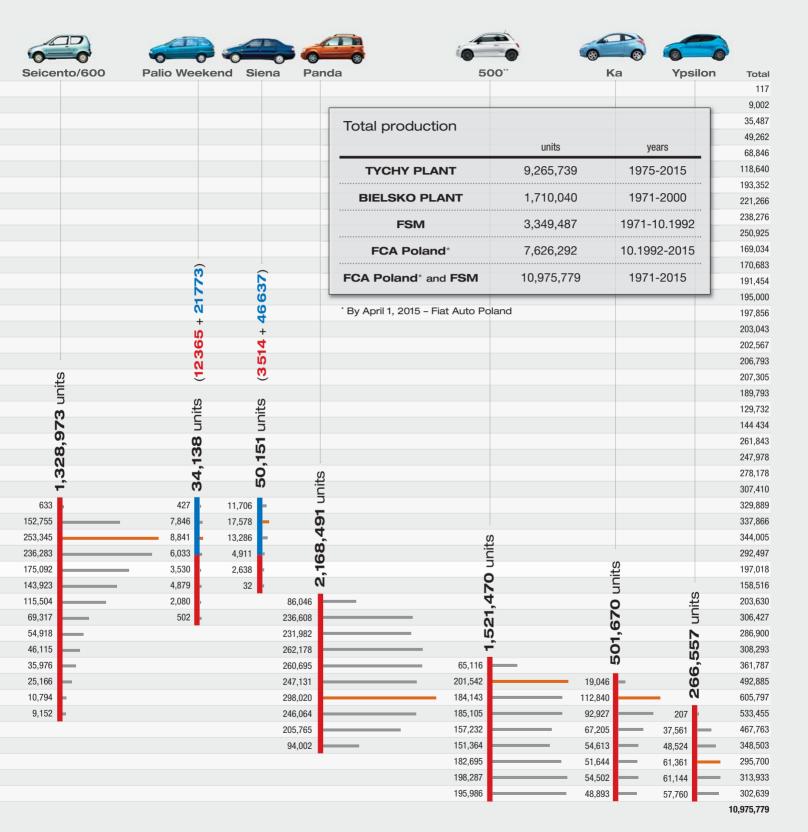
### Cars manufactured in Tychy and Bielsko-Biala through December 2014

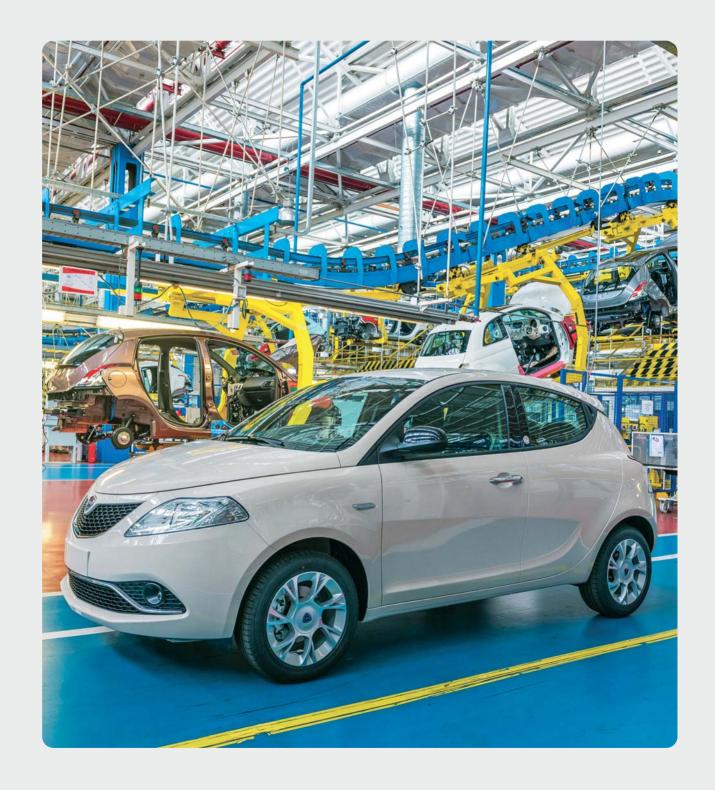


Assembly in the SKD system: Fiat Punto (57,026), Brava (19,122), Bravo (3,842), Marea (2,846), Ducato (2,893), Iveco Daily (2,732).

2015

Total: Fiat 500 (since 2007), Abarth 500 (since 2008), Fiat 500C (since 2009), and Abarth 500C (since 2010).





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