



STRIKING TECHNOLOGY

VALUES

ARTISTS capture employee ideas about the brand values on canvas. Opel/Vauxhall CEO Dr. Karl-Thomas Neumann shows us his favorites.

PAGE 3



► 75 Years of Kapitän

Elegant Appearance

The grand master shows it can still turn heads on its 75th birthday.

PAGE 8



► Szentgotthárd



Beginning of the Engine Offensive

The Hungarian plant is one of the most modern in Europe. Assembly line employee Szabolcs Németh reports on the manufacturing of the new mid-sized gasoline engine 1.6 SIDI Turbo.

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Hot Summer



The engines are roaring at Opel/Vauxhall! Everyone has their foot on the gas, from Saragossa to Szentgotthárd. There are new models (front page

and page 6), new engines (page 7), and new ideas about the brand (page 3). The creative 'brand wall' is bound to catch your eye if you stroll through the cafeteria in Rüsselsheim. Among all the fresh qualities, you will find an old classic: 'Opel, the reliable.'

The slogan was first adopted in 1936 and it hasn't lost any of its significance today. This issue of Opel Post sets out to prove this point. The Astra Sports Tourer delivered the best performance ever from a compact car in the 'auto motor und sport' endurance test, meaning it truly lives up to the title of 'Opel, the most reliable' (page 2). All Astra OPCs finish the 24-Hour Race (page 9), as do all the Opel employees taking part in the Mainz Marathon (page 4). There are also significant anniversaries to celebrate: 50 years of the Rekord and 75 years of the Kapitän (page 8). Congratulations! Or, in the words of Klaus Adler, owner of a 1952 Kapitän, "I have never had any problems with this car."

Opel/Vauxhall employees work hard to ensure that this remains the case. And the tires on the test vehicles do their bit, too. The tires are still smoking on the test block – the sign of a hot summer.

Roland Koriath, Editor-in-Chief

PHOTOS: OPEL, AUTO MOTOR UND SPORT

► OUR LATEST AWARDS

»Opel is the most reliable one«
auto motor und sport subjected the Astra Sports Tourer to a 100,000-km endurance test. The model performed faultlessly
auto motor und sport 12/2013



► News

A Clear Commitment

ATTITUDE The General Motors Board of Directors used its meeting in Rüsselsheim to underscore its commitment to Opel/Vauxhall. This commitment was also manifested in the approval of a comprehensive investment program: GM will invest € 4 billion in Germany and Europe through 2016. "Opel is a key to our success and enjoys its parent company's full support", said Dan Akerson, Chairman and CEO of GM.

Perfect Conditions

BONUS It's becoming rather rare that a customer pays cash for a car when they purchase one from a dealer. It's very important that Opel once again has a company bank in Europe. "Good financing

goes hand in hand with good cars," says Michael Lohscheller, Head of Finance at Adam Opel AG, commenting on Opel/Vauxhall's new Financial Services.

New Head of Human Resources

PERSONNEL Ulrich Schumacher, new Member of the Board of Management, is responsible for HR, and Director Labor Relations at Adam Opel AG as well as GM Europe Vice President Human Resources. The lawyer takes over from Holger Kimmes, who has left the company.



Head of HR
Ulrich Schumacher

OPEL SHOWS THAT
DRIVING
IN STYLE

CAN BE AFFORDABLE

THE CASCADA SCORES AGAINST
THE AUDI A5 AND BMW 320D

Auto Bild 18/2013

»GROUNDBREAKING
INTERIOR«

The ADAM wins the Auto-
motive Interiors EXPO 2013

Award and comes out
ahead of the Alfa 4C and
Jaguar F-Type

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»A champion«

The Zafira Tourer
outperformed the Ford
Gran C Max and
the VW Touran in tests

Autozeitung 11/2013

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From their heads, onto paper, and into the hearts: Artists take characteristics of Opel and create the brand wall. Opel/Vauxhall CEO Karl-Thomas Neumann (right) is happy with the result



APPROACHABLE means honest, no-nonsense, and compassionate

Workshops

On tour across Europe: All Opel/Vauxhall plants now have workshops in order to bring employees closer to the brand concept. This means words can become values, and employees make perfect brand ambassadors.

What constitutes the Opel brand? Employees put their heads together and put Opel/Vauxhalls's distinctive DNA into punchy words. Artists then translated the conversations about the brand into visual language. The result: A brand wall with a punch



GERMAN means accurate, efficient,
and reliable. All positive qualities.
But it's only one third of what makes
up the essence of the brand

»These terms reflect our tradition and pave the way for a successful future. This combination makes our values truly unique.«

CEO Karl-Thomas Neumann

EXCITING thanks to breathtaking designs,
thrilling handling, and handy innovations



42.195 KILOMETERS WITH THE CEO

Opel employees experience new PBs, feeling like a princess, and team spirit at the Mainz Marathon

There's only one way to describe it: absolute dedication. It's Sunday, 7:45 a.m., 6°C. The day is cold and wet. Sleeping late and a lazy breakfast are on the cards for most. Not everyone has what it takes to run a marathon. Five Opel employees meet at the Adam Opel Building on 12 May to take part in the marathon (42.195 kilometers) in Mainz. Opel/Vauxhall CEO Dr. Karl-Thomas Neumann and Head of Finance Michael Lohscheller line up together with three employees from Rüsselsheim, Saragossa, and Turin. Opel Post follows the team along the race course.

1 THE BOSS

The team hops into a Vivaro and heads for Mainz. The car is alive with chatter about training. "I run to relax," says Karl-Thomas Neumann. The marathon is the king of all racing distances, and Karl-Thomas Neumann did his first one in 2002. Running gave him a chance to switch off, but also time to think about work-related issues. "I've come up with some great solutions when I'm out running."

Kilometer 0: The tension is high. Adrenaline is pumping through the body ...

2 THE OVERACHIEVER

The starter's gun will sound in a few minutes. Spirits are high. Our five runners slip on their yellow and black Opel jerseys. "My legs feel surprisingly loose," says Silvan

Basten. He grins and mumbles: "It's crazy." His wonder is quite understandable. Basten broke one of the golden rules in the days leading up to a marathon: Take it easy. The Rüsselsheim-based controlling



14th Gutenberg Marathon Mainz

How many competitors took part?
7,700 runners lined up to run, with 7,150 crossing the finish line.

What was the fastest time?
Ethiopian Tola Bane Edea finished at two hours and 11 minutes, taking first place.

Should we let them run? Many in the carnival stronghold couldn't resist the temptation to run in costume.



42.195 kilometers? We can do it! César Sanjuán, Michael Lohscheller, Monica Berta, Karl-Thomas Neumann, and Silvan Basten shortly before the start (left to right)



employee squeezed in an ultra marathon of 96 kilometers just 36 hours before the race. Well, at least he tried to. "I had to call it a day after 46 kilometers, I was having some serious stomach problems," he explains. And so he only really had a few hours to recover. The Opel team gathers at the start line, the starter's gun sounds and they're off.

... Kilometer 10: The most enjoyable time, your body finds the right core temperature, your head is clear

3 THE PRINCESS

Everyone runs at their own pace. Monica Berta takes things slow. "I'll leave it to my colleagues to get the record times," she says. She still feels like a winner, though. "Taking part is enough for me." The crowd cheers on the Turin-based administrative assistant. Karl-Thomas Neumann gives her a big thumbs up on the back straight. "They treat me like a princess, I've really captured their full attention," she says, smiling. The muscle cramps flare up at kilometer 25. She slows down to a walk and pushes along with a smile on her face.

... Kilometer 30: The legs are beginning to feel heavy, feet are aching, motivation levels are falling: Hang tough and bear down ...

4 THE RUNNER

César Sanjuán is running through kilometer 37. "I feel pretty good," says the planning engineer from Saragossa. He shows no



How did they survive the 42.195 kilometers? A painful grind or pure adrenaline? One look at these faces says it all: It was the latter

signs of fatigue. He glances at his heart rate monitor and ups his speed. Everything is going to plan and the finish line is drawing closer. He takes the last few kilometers in his stride. The finish comes into sight and he sprints towards it, throwing his arms up in the air as he crosses the line. The clock shows three hours and five minutes. It's a new personal best. "Wow! That beats my

»I'm proud to represent Opel.«

César Sanjuán, Planning Engineer from Saragossa

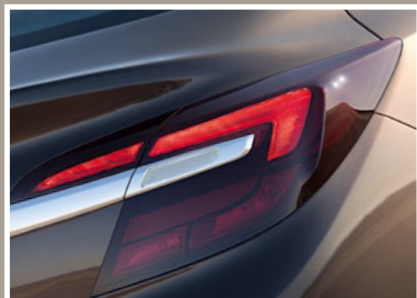
current PB by eight minutes." The Opel team spirit really spurred him on.

... Kilometer 42: Delight, triumph, and time to celebrate!

5 THE TALL ONE

César Sanjuán waits at the finish and watches Karl-Thomas Neumann, Michael Lohscheller, Silvan Basten, and Monica Berta all cross the line: Everyone made it! "It was fantastic sharing this running experience with you all," says the towering Michael Lohscheller. Employees from different departments and countries rarely get an opportunity to come together like this. The experienced runner is delighted with his time of 3:45. "It was hell at times, but I enjoyed it," he says.

woy



A boost to the rear view: The designers gave the tail lamps (left) a sharp “wing” signature. Drivers can use the 8-inch color display with touch operation (right) to operate the GPS and personalize the settings of the infotainment system

INSIGNIA FOR THE FLAGSHIP

The British crown jewels are first-class national emblems, visible signs of power. The Insignia has now gained its own new insignia

It visibly bears the signs of pure exclusiveness: a sculpted, prominent high-gloss chrome grille, a low positioned chrome brand bar, and the tail/stop functions lights feature a flowing design. The new Insignia is stronger and more sophisticated in every sense, but it's still elegant. Just look at the uncluttered center console. Here's what the new flagship looks like in detail.

The new Insignia comes in a sedan, hatchback, and Sports Tourer. It is set to celebrate its world premiere from 12 to 22 September at the IAA in Frankfurt

INTERIOR – Designers have given the cockpit a clearer structure. They paid special attention to the control panel on the center console, which has been radically simplified. The heart is the new infotainment generation. It can be controlled in different ways: Drivers can simply tap the 8-inch color display with touch operation, use the steering wheel controls, the voice control function, or the ergonomically-integrated touchpad in the center console, to select radio stations, songs, smartphone link, or a 3D navigation map.

STYLING – Redesigned headlamps and tail lamps give the successful Insignia a new look that has already won over 580,000 drivers. The front and rear end were restyled and are now wider and deeper.

A Champion in Economicalness

The Insignia 2.0 CDTI is particularly environmentally-friendly. It's all thanks to the two-liter turbocharged diesel engine, needing only 3.7 liters of fuel every 100 kilometers. Therefore it is the most fuel efficient diesel car in its class. The most powerful diesel engine is a 143-kW/195-hp 2.0 BiTurbo CDTI.

The two turbocharged direct-injection systems for the 2.0 SIDI Turbo with 184 kW/250 hp and 1.6 SIDI Turbo with 125 kW/170 hp deliver top performance, run smoothly, and operate efficiently. The Insignia LPG (103 kW/140 hp) is an alternative drive system that uses LPG.

COMFORT – Improvements to shocks, stabilizers and steering deliver an even more comfortable ride and handling. The new engine portfolio (see above) ensures that the drive system is as promising as its new look.

vmr

YOU NEED TO BE FLEXIBLE

One of the most modern plants in Europe, the Szentgotthárd plant is set for Opel/Vauxhall's major engine offensive. And assembly line employee Szabolcs Németh has to roll out of bed a little earlier for it

It's the dawning of a new era, but it's not all rosy, at least according to Szabolcs Németh. "Everything was going like clockwork. It was borderline perfect," says the 38-year old from Szentgotthárd. Employees there had a brand new engine factory using the groundbreaking 'Flex Plant' production concept. Everyone got to shake hands with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán at the opening ceremony and then off they went to explore the production halls. "I was wandering around the segment for crankshafts and I suddenly began to feel uneasy," explains Németh. Grinning, he continues: "I had completely lost my bearings. I didn't know which way was out." He grabbed his cell phone and called two fellow colleagues to come to his rescue. "I'll never live that one down. They still tease me about it today."

Németh has since come to grips with modern times, and he can now see the bigger picture. And the picture is indeed big. The plant covers a total area of 56,000 square meters, that's equivalent to eight soccer fields. Németh is one of eight team leaders along the 510-meter assembly line for the new, mid-sized gasoline direct-injection engine. The 1.6 SIDI Turbo has been in mass production here since February. From here, it goes on to plants like Gliwice and Bochum to be installed in the Cascada or the Zafira Tourer. The new engine kicks off the major engine offensive, where Opel/Vauxhall wants to revamp 80 percent of its range of engines in the coming four years.

Opel/Vauxhall has created the best-possible conditions along the assembly line to ensure employees can get the job done. Németh and his two-person team look after six stations, including the installation of the dual-mass ➤

»People are more effective than robots when it comes to flexibility and efficiency.«

Szabolcs Németh,
Team Leader on
the assembly line



The assembly line of the 1.6 SIDI Turbo is 510 meters long



Smooth working is required: The upper photo shows the preparation of piston pins, the right one presents an engine block, attached to a mounting frame



► flywheel, ignition system, and injection system. Their tasks are highly complex. Németh and product developers from Rüsselsheim came together last year to put the work processes they use down on paper. They ended up covering 58 pages.

The team leader coordinates, illustrates, and documents the individual steps. “We can steadily reduce the cycle times.” Currently, one engine leaves the line every 66 seconds, so the team is now shooting for one every 49 seconds. Annual production volume should increase by 100,000 to 600,000 engines per year. Németh’s team is set to take on six employees in order to cope with the increased utilization of the plant.

Engine Manufacturer

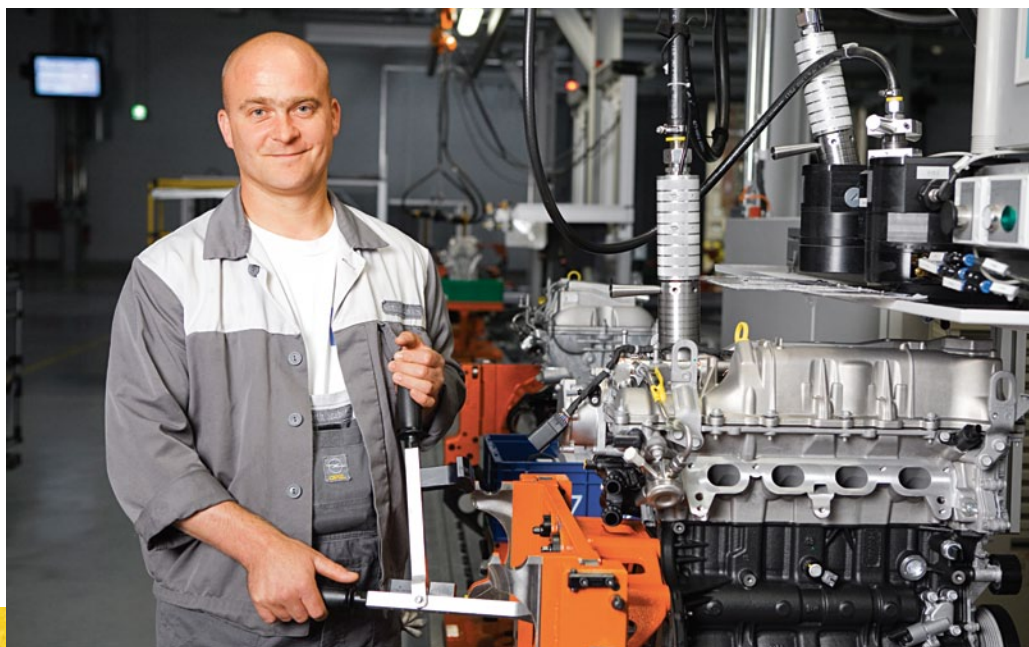
Opel/Vauxhall will introduce three completely new engine families and 13 new engines by 2016. The engine plant in Szentgotthárd manufactures small and mid-sized gasoline engines as well as mid-sized diesel engines. Workers there will begin to manufacture the new 1.6-liter diesel engine, alongside the new 1.6-liter gasoline engine.

Opel/Vauxhall invests € 630 million

The qualified machinist describes the conditions here as “ideal to provide the best quality possible.” Németh started working here back in 1994. “The plant had only been up and running for two years. We produced the Astra model as well as different engines for the Tigra and the Vectra.” The buildings and machines were state-of-the-art and flawless. It’s similar now, just more impressive. Opel/Vauxhall has invested €500 million in the plant, and a further

€130 million is set to follow. The halls are kept at a comfortable temperature thanks to the specially insulated, tinted window panes. Robots are few and far between. That’s the greatest strength of ‘Flex Plant,’ according to Németh. “Unlike robots, humans can operate highly precise tools in a more flexible and effective manner.”

Németh can still gripe about the new era though, he says with a wink. His current workstation is quite a bit farther from the locker room than his old one. “I have to set my alarm ten minutes earlier to make my shift on time.” woy



Szabolcs Németh
at a filling station
for engine oil

75 YEARS



KAPITÄN, TAKE ME ON THE ROAD WITH YOU



50 YEARS OF THE REKORD

Opel launched the Rekord in 1963. It was a bestseller as a sedan, Coupé, station wagon, and van in the generations A to E2.

Its predecessor, the Olympia Rekord, introduced in 1953, is ten years older and celebrating its 60th birthday.



The rain doesn't break its spirit. Kapitän is in its element on its 75th birthday. It is robust and reliable, and radiates irresistible charm. Opel Classic invites 42 grand masters to take a drive through Rüsselsheim.

Glowing admiration

'The car that belongs to the world': That's how Opel advertises the Kapitän way back in December 1938. Its modern design makes it stand out against its rivals. The front-opening 'alligator' hood sits between the headlights integrated into the fenders, and the gentle hatchback rounds out the elegant appearance. Now, 42 Kapitän built between 1938 and 1953 cruise through their birthplace as part of a vintage parade. Some 40 of them come from afar: Lübeck, Dortmund, Munich, and even the Netherlands. Numbers 41 and 42 roll out of the Opel Classic garage.

Konrad Ostertag, born in 1934, truly represents the glowing admiration of the Kapitän fan community. He is the proud owner of a 1939 convertible and has reconstructed its eventful career: "It was used as a military vehicle in Eastern Europe during the war, and then spent the next 30 years in the former Yugoslavia. I had to search for ten years before I found it in the Saarland. It's mine for good now; I'll never give her up."

es

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"I drove to the North Cape in my 1952 Kapitän. We covered over 8,000 kilometers during the journey. I've never had a single problem with this car."

Klaus Adler, Kapitän expert at the "Alt-Opel" club



"An Opel Kapitän is really the only choice if you want a vintage car built before World War II that can still be driven."

Frits Spierings, drove down from the Netherlands expressly for the event

THE WILDEST DAYS OF THE YEAR

GAME ON

Part 1: Opel is back in the saddle on and off the track at the 24-Hour Race at Nürburgring

Alex Hofmann is a man of many words. "Our mechanics think I'm really chatty on the radio during the races," says the 33-year old. But Hofmann came up against a stumbling block early on in the 24-Hour Race at Nürburgring. "I was completely overwhelmed," he said later. It was the formation lap that hit him. It was very emotional. "In the thick of it all, I felt like I was in the center of Opel territory. Everywhere I looked I could see yellow t-shirts cheering on the drivers."



▲ Astra OPC Cup driver Alex Hofmann and event host Annica Hansen
 ▼ Horsepower fans enjoy a tug of war. This group here preferred the rope to the cars

Hofmann managed to pull himself together after a few minutes on the track though. Now he could drive and commentate for Sport1 live from the cockpit of an Astra OPC built up by Kissling Motorsport. The whole lot put great strain on the multitasking capabilities of the former motorcycle racer. The race unfolded in front of a crowd of some 210,000 spectators, and it really was something: rain and fog banks ensure that the race was interrupted for more than nine

hours. On top of all that, Hofmann and teammates Hannu Luostarinen and Thomas Kroher had to come through several collisions. The battle to win the OPC Cup is a tough one.

Things are pretty wild off the track, too. The fans are happy to celebrate the races, the mud, and themselves (see Score Card). And of course, it's all in traditional Nürburgring style: cold beverages, sing-along music, and enthusiasm for mobile living. Opel fan Rainer from Detmold had one of the most unique ideas: His truck stands out among the motor

homes and tents. It features a built-in shower with a disco ball, radio, and massage jets. The truck also has four bunk beds and a flat screen TV, providing Rainer and his crew with live coverage of the race track. "We built the bar out of old floorboards," he says. "It's great to be back again. We've really missed Opel these past few years."

Hofmann and his team prove their worth on the track. They came in second in the Cup and placed 48th in the overall standings. Hofmann's final words on the subject: "We'll be back again next year to give it another shot." cs

Score Card

Nürburgring

Fun	☹ ☹ ☹ ☹
Sport	☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹
Weather	☹
Social program	☹ ☹ ☹ ☹

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THE WILDEST DAYS OF THE YEAR OSCHERSLEBEN 2013



An eye catcher: The Nürburgring veteran Astra OPC. And the two women? Oh, they just happened to passing by

IT'S REALLY GAME ON NOW

Part 2: Who needs shoes, sleep, or tires profiles? That's right, no one! 60,000 fans pay homage to the brand with a bolt at the world's largest fan meeting in Oschersleben

They stand barefoot on wooden benches, wave their beer bottles in the air, and dance to AC/DC's 'Highway to Hell.' It's 10:46 a.m. Breakfast'll have be the three burnt bratwurst from last night. Close by, a few young men are having a burnout contest, spinning their tires until they pop.

The smell of burnt rubber penetrates your nostrils. But the duo here doesn't take much notice. A gracefully aged diplomat stands next to a grotesquely pimped out Kadett. Platinum blonde Birgit prefers the ADAM Cup and snuggles up to the car in her red bikini. People start whipping out camera

phones. Anything goes here. Welcome to the world's largest Opel fan meeting. Welcome to Oschersleben.

"My buddy and I took some time off work especially to be here," says Ingmar from Chemnitz. "It's kind of a mixture between ►

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Burn some rubber: Rear tires produce thick fumes in the burnout contest (above). Pimped out (left) or bizarre (below), fans have fun with Opel



a vacation on Mallorca and a rock music festival, but with more craziness, girls, and awesome cars,” he adds in a hoarse voice. “We camp in the mud and party on the wet asphalt. It’s awesome.” (See Score Card.) Ingmar hurries off to go for a spin in an Astra OPC Cup. Motor racing icon Jockel Winkelhock is behind the wheel of the racing taxi.

Bolts as Far as the Eye Can See

That’s more or less how the festival near Magdeburg pans out for over 60,000 fans. They camp at the Motorsport Arena for four nights and five days, and turn into party animals. At the end of the day though, parties, beer, and music are just a sideshow, Opel is the main act. There are bolts as far as the eye can see. 16,000 high-quality, well-groomed models from across Europe compete for attention.

Faith: The banner on the bridge at the start and finish

»We’re all a little bit crazy.«

Marcus Kielmann,
Opel fan

Marcus, a family man from the Dortmund area, runs an Opel Internet forum. Oschersleben shows that “we’re all a little bit crazy,” he says with a smile. “But more than anything else, it shows that Opel is more than just a carmaker: It’s an attitude toward life.”

Ingmar takes a pragmatic view. He’s still quite pale after his

tour with Jockel Winkelhock and goes to meet a friend from Facebook who traveled in from Sweden. They want to work on his Aero GT and then try their luck in the 1/8 mile sprint in the tuned-up Corsa. “This is the greatest hobby in the world,” says Ingmar. And his grin is about to get even bigger. “Hey!” he shouts, “there’s Miss Opel in a Cascada!” The new Miss Opel rolls by on the trunk of a new convertible.

“She’s a piece of work, especially with her top down,” says Ingmar’s buddy, who has just crept out of the tent. Is he talking about the car or Miss Opel? “Both.” as

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Score Card

Oschersleben

Fun	⊖ ⊖ ⊖ ⊖ ⊖
Sport	⊖ ⊖ ⊖
Weather	⊖ ⊖
Social program	⊖ ⊖ ⊖ ⊖ ⊖

[Play Video http://bit.ly/12KM9SV](http://bit.ly/12KM9SV)



Opel is fun: Netherlands' King Willem-Alexander (center) and Queen Máxima clearly enjoyed their visit to Rüsselsheim

A ROYAL VISIT

It's 4 June, 8:25 a.m. on the dot: Here they come. Headed by seven police motorcycles, a motorcade of sedans drive up to the Adam Opel Building. The Dutch royals have arrived for a working visit. Willem-Alexander and his wife Máxima are here to learn about the future of automotive engineering. Opel/Vauxhall designer and fellow Dutchman Ivo van Hulten met the royal couple

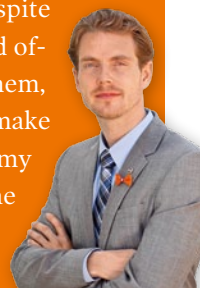


O/V designer van Hulten and the King

» I could hardly sleep a wink that night. I barely got in five hours of sleep. I knew what was in store for me, and the anticipation was like nothing I had ever experienced before: I was about to meet 'my' royal family. I bought a new suit especially for the occasion two days earlier. And

then before I knew it, there I was, standing in our design center trying to look relaxed while Willem-Alexander and Máxima casually walked over to me. The team presented new, top-secret models and developments and then I got to present the new Insignia in our native tongue. I did my best to make it as personal as possible, and although I focused on our flagship model, I also gave them an insight into the history of the brand and our approach.

Something happened about 20 minutes later that will stay with me forever. The visit was nearing its end and the royal couple was about to take their leave. Despite all the camera crews and officials milling around them, the couple managed to make their way over to me and thanked me for my time. I even got to shake hands with both the Netherlands' king and queen. It was truly a majestic moment. «



Ivo van Hulten



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She is Austria's most charming singer – and an Opel brand ambassador: Gudrun Liemberger

Opel Post: Ms. Liemberger, where have we caught you?

GuGabriel: *I'm at home in my apartment in Vienna right now. I've been busy working on my new album, which is set to be released next year. I actually just e-mailed a new song to my producer. It's a new interpretation of my song 'Rose Gardens.'*

You drive an Astra Sports Tourer and you're on the road a lot...

You said it, I drove 10,000 kilometers in the past six months alone. My car is really cool. I love the big trunk. It's so nice to finally have space for my instruments: my keyboard, guitar, violin, microphone stand, and all the other things you need when you're on tour. Sometimes I take a few pieces from my drummer Kathi's drum set if things get tight for her.

Where do you drive to get away from it all?

I love the Vienna Woods, and it's only a 15-minute drive to get there. I run cross country, over brook and bramble, and up and down hills. I really enjoy the solitude.

When will you be performing again live for your fans?

I'll be playing in Berlin on 10 October.



www.gudrunliemberger.com

Josef Krotil hoards treasures in his garage in Groß-Gerau. They're the kind of treasures you want to get your hands on, the kind that make you happy. The 61-year old has been collecting and restoring post-war vehicles of up to one liter cubic capacity for decades. His latest project: recreating a Mopetta.

Egon Brüttsch invented the three-wheel microcar with a 50 cc ILO V 50 engine, and Georg von Opel wanted to sell it as the 'Opelit' at the end of the 1950s, but only 14 were ever made. "I traded a motorcycle for the body shell in 1977. Then I found some individual components near where Brüttsch lived," he explains. The

Mopetta would have to wait though. Krotil was busy with his job at Opel as manager for vehicle regulations, not to mention his duties as a father of three. Recently retired, the car enthusiast can now devote more time to his Mopetta mission. The project often keeps him awake at night. "There are no construction plans. I reconstructed the chassis using photographs," he says. Every detail poses a challenge. "The opening where the spoke nut sits has to be punched. It's incredibly difficult to find someone who can perform this technique nowadays. I had to drive 1,000 kilometers to find a workshop that could do it," he explains. There was something to overhaul everywhere he looked: the brake pedal, the steering, the engine. Krotil plans to take the Mopetta out for a drive for the first time this autumn. *vmr*



Follow us: A Mopetta flyer from the 1950s

THE MOPETTA MISSION



Josef Krotil shows off his Mopetta chassis. The Messerschmitt (left) and Fuldomobil are already finished

PHOTOS: DAVID STRASSBURGER, OPEL

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OPEL ONLINE



Opel Bolts Light Up the VW Sky

Look here! Thousands of VW GTI fans met at Lake Wörthersee in Austria, and Opel was at the center of it all! Employees mingled incognito and distributed 3D glasses for the big fireworks display. What the VW fans didn't know: The glasses changed the lights into dozens of Opel logos. The result: over 270,000 views on YouTube.



Return of the Foxtail

Well now! The Manta B is back. An Opel team applied for the Red Bull Soap Box Derby with this funny video, and they made the cut! The team will push off the starting block on 14 July at Landschaftspark Hoheward, Germany.