

Press Release

Schaeffler and NVIDIA join forces in technology collaboration to advance digital manufacturing

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- Technology collaboration with NVIDIA will accelerate digitalization of production
- Use of AI-supported solutions in the global plant network will revolutionize manufacturing processes and yield even better products
- Schaeffler's decades of manufacturing know-how will contribute to the further development of the Industrial Metaverse

Schaeffler, the Motion Technology Company, has entered into a technology collaboration with NVIDIA. The partnership should help Schaeffler further digitalize its production processes and, ultimately, make them more efficient and agile. Using NVIDIA Omniverse, Schaeffler is expanding its production elements, which will be integrated and simulated as digital twins, with goals of integrating half of the company's plants into Omniverse by 2030.

"Schaeffler is consistently and persistently driving the digitalization of its plants," says Andreas Schick, Chief Operating Officer at Schaeffler AG. "To be able to shape the production of the future, you need strong partners like NVIDIA. Together, we will create a digital ecosystem for our more than 100 plants that will sustainably revolutionize production processes. The Omniverse and the use of digital twins will make our value chains more efficient and agile."

Industrial Metaverse for the Factory of the Future

Schaeffler will develop digital twins, or digital representations of plants and machines, using the NVIDIA Omniverse platform. With AI-supported solutions, employees will be able to simulate physical properties of materials, processes, and production processes and optimize them more quickly. In addition, Omniverse will make it possible to deploy future technologies such as humanoid robots flexibly in production environments. Complex, fully automated assembly processes such as mounting of sealing elements will also be able to be improved with the use of AI in Omniverse. Real-time simulations will make adjustments possible during the product life cycle. Through standardization, production processes throughout the global plant network of the Schaeffler Group will become more efficient.

"As global manufacturers seek to modernize operations, a simulation-first, AI-driven approach is essential to drive efficiency, innovation, and competitive advantage," says Rev Lebareadian, Vice President of Omniverse and Simulation Technology at NVIDIA. "Our work together will enable Schaeffler to simulate and optimize its manufacturing and robotics operations before making changes in the real world—accelerating innovation while reducing risk and cost."

Roberto Henkel, Senior Vice President Operations Digitalization & IT at Schaeffler, adds: "The technology collaboration with NVIDIA makes realistic, well-functioning representations of digital twins and physical AI possible. Schaeffler aims to play a key role in shaping the development of the Industrial Metaverse for the manufacturing industry together with NVIDIA. For this, we are contributing our decades of knowledge in the fields of manufacturing and vertical integration for the further development of Omniverse."

Schaeffler Group – We pioneer motion: The Schaeffler Group has been driving forward groundbreaking inventions and developments in the field of motion technology for 80 years. With innovative technologies, products, and services for electric mobility, CO₂-efficient drives, chassis solutions and renewable energies, the company is a reliable partner for making motion more efficient, intelligent, and sustainable – over the entire life cycle. Schaeffler describes its comprehensive range of products and services by means of eight product families: From bearing solutions and all types of linear guidance systems through to repair and monitoring services. Schaeffler is with around 110,000 employees and more than 250 locations in 55 countries, one of the world's largest family-owned companies and one of Germany's most innovative companies.

(From left to right) Sebastian Jonas (Senior Vice President Advanced Production Technology), Roberto Henkel (Senior Vice President Operations Digitalization & IT), Andreas Schick (Chief Operating Officer) from Schaeffler, and Rev Lebareadian (Vice President of Omniverse and Simulation Technology), Madison Huang (Senior Director of Product Marketing), and Philippe van den Berge (Vice President Automotive EMEA) from NVIDIA, entered into the technology collaboration at GTC Europe in Paris, France. Photo: Schaeffler

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Digital twin of a Schaeffler assembly line in NVIDIA's Omniverse. Photo: Schaeffler

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