



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **VOLKSWAGEN GROUP OF AMERICA SURPASSES 250,000 VEHICLES SHIPPED THROUGH PORT FREEPORT**

**FREEPORT, TX (June 11, 2026)** – Volkswagen Group of America (Volkswagen) has achieved a significant milestone, surpassing 250,000 vehicles shipped through Port Freeport since establishing its Gulf Coast vehicle processing hub, highlighting the continued growth of its operations and partnership with the Port.

The milestone, reached on May 28, 2026, reflects the success of Volkswagen's growing presence at Port Freeport and a partnership that continues to support efficient vehicle logistics, expanded distribution capabilities, and economic growth.

"Processing 250,000 vehicles through Port Freeport is a significant achievement that reflects the strength of Volkswagen Group of America's partnership with the Port and our community," said Rob Giesecke, Chairman of the Port Freeport Commission. "This collaboration supports jobs here in our local community, drives economic growth in Brazoria County and Texas, and strengthens supply chains nationwide."

Volkswagen Group of America announced Port Freeport as its major Gulf Coast vehicle logistics hub in 2022, with operations beginning in early 2024. Designed to serve nearly 300 dealerships across the United States, the facility supports the import and distribution of Volkswagen and Audi vehicles through Port Freeport. The broader Volkswagen Group portfolio

includes brands such as Porsche, Lamborghini, and Bentley.

“Surpassing 250,000 vehicles through Port Freeport is a milestone we’re proud to hang our hat on and even more motivated to build from,” said Elliott Hughes, Port Manager, Freeport, Volkswagen Group of America, INC. “When I reflect on what it took to reach this milestone, it’s really about the people and partnerships behind it. From the teams working day in and day out at the terminal, to those supporting behind the scenes, and the many partners across the region, each has played a meaningful role in getting us here. Since launching operations in Freeport in 2024, our focus has been on building something reliable and sustainable, but achievements like this aren’t accomplished by any one group, they’re built over time through trust, collaboration, and a shared commitment to doing things the right way. I’m truly grateful for the dedication of everyone involved, and proud of what we’ve been able to accomplish together.”

“We congratulate Volkswagen on its successful operations at Port Freeport which showcases the value of strategic infrastructure investments and partnership,” said Phyllis Saathoff, Executive Director and CEO of Port Freeport. “We are honored to support Volkswagen’s operations and look forward to continuing to provide the reliable service and capabilities that contribute to their long-term success.”

As Port Freeport continues to enhance its infrastructure and expand its capabilities, partnerships like Volkswagen Group of America remain central to advancing trade, supporting economic growth, and delivering value to the communities the Port serves.

Port Freeport is a leading port in the export of crude oil and natural gas liquids and ranks 6th nationally in chemicals, 13th in total foreign waterborne tonnage, and 4th in the State of Texas by the same measure. A 2022 Economic Impact Study by Texas A&M Transportation Institute revealed that, nationally, the Freeport Harbor Channel generates 266,300 jobs and has a total

economic output of \$157.3 billion. Port Freeport serves Alliera, Atlantic Container Lines, AMPORTS, BASF, Chiquita Fresh N.A., Dole Fresh Fruit, The Dow Chemical Company, Enterprise Products Partners, ExxonMobil, Freeport LNG, Fresh Del Monte Produce Inc., Ford Motor Company, General Motors, Glovis, Grimaldi Lines, Hoegh Autoliners, Kirby Marine, Liberty Global Logistics, Linde, MEGlobal, NYK RORO, Phillips 66, Riviana Foods, Inc., Sallaum Lines, Tenaris, U.S Department of Energy, Volkswagen Group of America, and Vulcan Materials Company.

Port Freeport is committed to keeping the local community informed of our operation and results. If you have questions or comments about this article, please email or call Amanda Veliz, Public Affairs Manager.

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**PHOTO CUTLINE:** Team members from Volkswagen Group of America, Port Freeport, and partner organizations gather at Volkswagen’s Gulf Coast facility in Freeport to celebrate the successful shipment of 250,000 vehicles through Port Freeport.