

# DEO

## Digital Enhanced Operator

### PRESS RELEASE

## AUGMENTED WORKERS TO BE TESTED AT VOLKSWAGEN AUTOEUROPA

DEO project will implement augmented reality technology on the factory to boost productivity and quality in production lines, while decreasing human errors.

**Lisbon, November 14, 2022** – The [Digital Enhanced Operator \(DEO\)](#) project is already underway, aimed at enabling Volkswagen AutoEuropa production lines with augmented workers. Co-promoted by partners [INESC TEC](#), Skillaugment and [Volkswagen Autoeuropa](#), DEO will be using [KIT-AR's](#) solution to support production operations and quality control with step-by-step AR instructions viewed through HMDs (Head Mounted Displays). The goal is to research and successfully implement an AR industrial system to identify and guide workers through quality inspections in production lines, allowing them to more easily detect and report anomalies.

It is relevant that large automobile brands like [Volkswagen Autoeuropa](#) are leveraging emerging technologies to optimize production processes.

“In the near future Augmented Reality will play a critical role within the industry, enabling smart manufacturing and allowing to overcome key challenges, like assisting the workers to conduct their operations more efficiently and safely. An environmental impact improvement is also expected through the reduction of scrap and emission”, mentions **Helder Vicente**, Process Engineer at [Volkswagen Autoeuropa](#).

[KIT-AR](#) platform will support the research, development and implementation being done by DEO, with the help of partner company, SkillAugment. Besides the knowledge augmentation of the worker, **Manuel Oliveira**, [KIT-AR](#) founder and CEO shares other goals for the project.

“By using KIT-AR, workers at [Volkswagen Autoeuropa](#) will not only feel safer but more confident while performing their tasks, which will improve both the results and the resilience inside the production lines involved.”

The project also includes research on the scientific state of the art and ways to integrate best practices when applying augmented reality in the manufacturing context.

[INESC TEC](#) researcher, Filipa Ramalho, hopes that the technology will “contribute to an increase in productivity and quality, while decreasing human errors at production lines, thus adapting the workers to the digitalisation of the factory floor and providing them cognitive and personalised reinforcement”.

“In general terms, the industrial augmented reality system will identify the type of interventions required, synthesise and provide information to the operators, according to their needs, when and where necessary. The content is reproduced through of a process execution system, supported by context-based models”, she stated.

According to **Manuel Oliveira**, from [KIT-AR](#), “Being able to implement the right technology to boost human workers cognitive abilities, in one of the largest automotive factories in Portugal, is a major step for [KIT-AR](#). We can actually see how the workers will react and interact with Augmented Reality technology and the difference it will cause in their normal everyday functions”.

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### **About Volkswagen Autoeuropa**

*The Volkswagen brand is present in more than 150 markets. The Volkswagen Group owns 120 plants worldwide and produces vehicles in 19 European countries and 10 countries between America, Asia and Africa. The Palmela plant closed the year 2021 with 5,124 employees and 210,754 units produced. In Palmela, the T-Roc, Sharan and SEAT Alhambra models are produced. In 2021, the T-Roc was Volkswagen's best-selling model in Portugal*

### **About KIT-AR**

*KIT-AR is an innovative augmented worker platform, focused on augmenting quality and efficiency in production lines. With offices in the United Kingdom and Portugal, KIT-AR's product leverages augmented reality and artificial intelligence to identify, trace and reduce production errors, as well as to identify continuous improvement opportunities in the automotive, aerospace and electronics manufacturing markets. KIT-AR's product is represented in Portugal by Skillaugment Lda.*

### **About INESC TEC**

*INESC TEC is a private non-profit research association, with Public Interest status, dedicated to scientific research and technological development, technology transfer, advanced consulting and training, and pre-incubation of new technology-based companies. Present in six sites in the cities of Porto (headquarters), Braga and Vila Real, and with more than 700 researchers, INESC TEC focuses on promoting ubiquitous knowledge in its application fields, creating new digital paradigms and applications. INESC TEC also seeks to strengthen its role as an S&T partner in public policies, and the Institute's competencies are vital to the major Digital and Environment priorities at the European and national levels, namely: Industry and Manufacturing; Sustainable Energy Systems; Sea; Agro-Food; Forestry and Biodiversity; Health; Cyber-Physical Systems and Advanced Computing and Communication Methods.*