

Germany's car industry will invest nearly €60bn over the next three years in electric cars and automated driving, the head of the VDA car industry association said.

Increasing the number of electric cars on the road is pivotal to reach ambitious goals in the European Union to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and requires the expansion of charging infrastructure, VDA President Bernhard Mattes said Saturday in a statement. "The ramp-up of electric mobility is coming in Europe," said Mattes, who is a former head of Ford's German business. "Without it, the EU's CO2 targets cannot be achieved by 2030," he said, calling for what he called appropriate regulatory conditions across Europe.



German automakers will invest over €40bn in electric mobility during the next three years, and another €18bn will be invested in digitalisation and connected and automated driving, Mattes said.

With the number of electric models from Volkswagen, Daimler and BMW reaching about 100 over the next three years, Mattes called for more incentives for buyers.

Volkswagen aim to spur interest in their upcoming lineup of mass-market full-electric cars with the I.D. Buggy concept, a modern version of an American beach buggy from the 1960s. Audi's Q4 e-tron concept previews a future battery-powered car planned for launch in late 2020 or early '21 as an affordable, entry-level EV. Mercedes will show their EQV, an electric version of the V-class passenger van ("Metris", in North America) that will expand the maker's range of EQ full-electric vehicles into the commercial van segment.