

Audi reports record sales for 2012

FRANKFURT, GERMANY: Vehicle manufacturer Audi, the top-of-the-range subsidiary of Volkswagen, reported record sales in 2012 and hopes to achieve further growth this year.



Audi said in a statement that it sold a record 1.455m cars worldwide last year, 11.7% more than in 2011. That meant revenues increased by 10.6% to €48.78bn and operating profit edged up by 0.6% to €5.38bn, both new records, Audi said.

"Despite tangible fallout from the debt crisis in a number of countries and a shrinking overall market in Europe, Audi achieved record levels of output, deliveries, revenues and earnings," chief executive Rupert Stadler said. "Last year was a very successful year for us. We surpassed all our goals and, with Ducati, added a very attractive premium brand to our portfolio," he said.

While operating profit rose, pre-tax profit declined by 1.4% to €5.9bn due to increased distribution and marketing costs.

Stadler said Audi "aims to grow further in 2013 and said the group is aiming for "a slight increase in sales revenues".

"Profits will benefit from the targeted increase in unit sales, as well as the ongoing measures to boost productivity and efficiency," Stadler added.

Source: *AFP* via I-Net Bridge