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AUTOMOTIVE

Bentley to build largest solar-powered carport at factory headquarters

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Bentley is increasing its solar power output by 50 percent. Image credit: Bentley

By STAFF REPORTS

British automaker Bentley Motors has unveiled plans to build the United Kingdom's largest solar-powered carport.



The port will be powered by 10,000 solar panels, generating 2.7 MW of power. With the creation of this port, Bentley is significantly increasing its investment in sustainable energy and solar power.

"We continue to focus on new initiatives that reinforce our commitment to the environment, whether this is introducing alternative powertrain technologies in future models, or our award-winning work to reduce the environmental impact of our factory," said Peter Bosch, member of the board for manufacturing at Bentley, in a statement.

Solar power

As global concern over the deterioration of the climate increases, auto companies are under much more scrutiny than ever before.

Emissions from gasoline-powered cars is one of the primary drivers for the warming of the planet. Many auto brands are aware of this and have begun exploring ways to alleviate some of their negative impact on the environment.

For example, electric cars use far fewer non-renewable resources while maintaining a low emissions level.

Bentley is investing heavily into sustainability by creating the country's largest solar-powered carport that employs more than 10,000 solar panels.

The carport will be installed at the company's factory headquarters in Crewe, England. The carport's creation will increase the brand's overall solar-power use by 50 percent, adding to the 20,000 solar panels already in use at other Bentley facilities.



The carport in Crewe, UK. Image credit: Bentley

Bentley was the first U.K. automotive manufacturer to be awarded the Carbon Trust Standards for carbon, water and waste, further reducing the environmental impact of its operations in Crewe.

Employing solar power is not the only way that Bentley has invested in the future. The brand has also looked to draft and nurture the next group of talented apprentices with the hope of planning a strong future for its company.

Bentley began its early stages of this year's trainee recruitment program, in which it employs the best talent of the next generation, in February. Positions in departments such as sales, marketing, human resources, finance, engineering and manufacturing will now be available to skilled individuals at the apprentice, graduate and undergraduate levels (see story).

"This solar installation is another example of how we can make our factory more sustainable by using technological innovation," Mr. Bosch said. "This helps us produce extraordinary cars with responsibly-sourced materials in an efficient manner, while continually striving to reduce the company's environmental impact."

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