

AUTOMOTIVE

## BMW names new CEO amid record H1

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BMW X3. Image credit: BMW

By STAFF REPORTS

German automaker BMW Group has appointed Oliver Zipse as its next chairman of the board.

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Effective Aug. 16, Mr. Zipse will succeed Harald Krger, who is resigning after a single term in the CEO role. Mr. Zipse is expected to continue the work that the company is doing to make its brands leaders in future mobility.

### New leadership

Mr. Zipse has been on BMW's board of management since 2015. He currently oversees the auto group's product division.

The executive began his career at BMW in 1991, and he has held roles including managing director plant Oxford and senior vice president of corporate planning and product strategy.



Oliver Zipse. Image credit: BMW

Mr. Krger announced earlier this month that he would not be seeking a second term as chairman. The executive spent 27 years at BMW, and has been in his current role since 2015.

"The BMW Group has been my professional home for more than 27 years," Mr. Krger said. "After more than 10 years in the board of management, more than four of which as the CEO of the BMW Group, I would like to pursue new professional endeavors and leverage my diverse international experience for new projects and ventures."

"Over the last years, the automotive industry has been shaped by enormous changes, which have brought about more transformation than in the previous 30 years," he said. "This has demanded tremendous efforts from every employee within the company. For their outstanding commitment, I would like to personally thank each and every one of them."

"It has always been a true honor for me to work with this tremendous team and to set the BMW Group on a path towards a successful future during the most significant transformation of this industry."

Mr. Krger led a number of future focused initiatives for BMW, including its Strategy Number One > Next that has included the introduction of concept models such as the Vision iNext and the Vision M Next ([see story](#)).

BMW has also forged partnerships with Jaguar Land Rover for electric cars and Daimler for autonomous driving and mobility ([see story](#)).

The group will have 25 electric models available by 2023.

Under Mr. Krger's leadership, the company achieved a record number of vehicle deliveries.

In the first half of the year, BMW's deliveries surpassed 1.25 million for the first time, up 1.4 percent year-over-year. BMW's deliveries were up 0.7 percent globally in June, and its sales volume grew 0.8 percent to a record.

"With Oliver Zipse, a decisive strategic and analytical leader will assume the chair of the board of management of BMW AG," said Dr. Norbert Reithofer, chairman of the supervisory board of BMW AG, in a statement. "He will provide the BMW Group with fresh momentum in shaping the mobility of the future."