



Almost 19 years after Tesla opened, it has a car factory network that **spans** the globe.

The leading electric-vehicle maker officially opened its plant outside Berlin, Germany. Tesla CEO Elon Musk handed over the first 30 Model Y to customers in front of German Chancellor Olaf Scholz. Musk met his promise to dance like when Tesla opened its Shanghai factory two years ago.

The more than 5.5 billion factory is the biggest **investment** in a German car plant in recent history. 3,500 workers are currently on-site; however, the company expects the number to rise to 12,000. At full capacity, the plant will produce 500,000 cars annually, more than the 450,000 battery-electric vehicles that German rival Volkswagen sold globally in 2021. The Model Y has a **range** of 514 kilometers, and it costs 70,590 dollars.

**Difficult words:** **span** (to extend from side to side of something), **investment** (putting money into something to make a profit), **range** (the distance over which someone or something can get).

## Discussion Questions

**Topic Talk**

1. Define the following words: *span*, *investment* and *range*
2. What does Tesla specialize in?
3. How long after Tesla opened did it start to span globally?
4. Who is the current Chief Executive Officer of Tesla?
5. Who did CEO Elon Musk hand the 30 Model Y over? And how much does Model Y cost?
6. Which is considered the biggest investment in a German car plant in recent history?
7. How many employees does the company expect to hire more?
8. At full capacity, how many cars will the German car plant produce each year?
9. Which car company sold 450,000 battery-electric vehicles globally in 2021?

**Express Your Thoughts**

1. Does your country produce electric vehicles or battery-electric vehicles?
2. Which are the leading manufacturers of electric or battery-electric vehicles in your country?
3. How soon do you think will electric vehicles replace conventional vehicles?
4. How many people in your country use electric vehicles?