

Opel History

An overview of company milestones

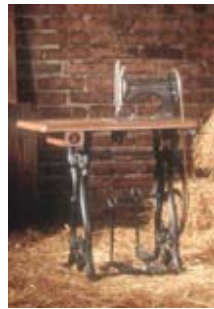
1862 After years of employment as a journeyman metalworker, Adam Opel goes into business in his hometown of Rüsselsheim: he builds his first sewing machine, laying the foundation for the Opel company.



Company founder Adam Opel, born May 9, 1837; deceased September 8, 1895.



The first Opel sewing machine, 1862.



Adam Opel builds his first sewing machine in 1862.



The oldest existing Opel company logo, in neoclassicist style. An "A" for Adam and an "O" for Opel, 1862.

1863 The company expands: Adam Opel hires his first employee, taking on his first apprentice two years later. With an ad in the regional newspaper Groß-Gerauer Kreisblatt, Opel begins promoting his product.



On April 10, 1863, Adam Opel advertises his sewing machines for the first time, in the Groß-Gerauer Kreisblatt.

1868 The sewing-machine business flourishes. Adam Opel moves into his first factory building, an industrial hall with attached living quarters. A year later, he introduces steam power into the manufacturing facilities. In 1868, Adam Opel marries Sophie Scheller, the daughter of a factory owner. Five sons are born in the years that follow: Carl on August 31, 1869; Wilhelm on May 15, 1871; Heinrich on September 22, 1873; Friedrich on April 30, 1875; and Ludwig on January 1, 1880.



The first factory building, 1868



Sophie Opel, née Scheller, in the year of her wedding, 1868.



The five sons of Sophie and Adam Opel, in 1884. Left to right: Carl, Wilhelm, Heinrich, Friedrich and Ludwig.



Group photograph of the sewing-machine assembly workers, 1875

1872 Adam Opel establishes a factory health insurance plan.

1886 By entering the booming business of bicycle manufacture, Opel secures a second foothold for his company. The Opel sons are enthusiastic cyclists, winning several hundred races on Opel bicycles in the years up to 1898. In less than forty years, Opel becomes the world's largest bicycle producer.



Cover of a bicycle brochure from the period.



Excerpt from a bicycle catalog, 1909.



Bicycle racing: Wilhelm Opel helps a fellow athlete get started.



Opel manufactures bicycles for five decades (1886–1937), becoming the world's largest bicycle producer in the 1920s.



Bicycle production, 1912



The word "Blitz" (lightning bolt) is used as a product name for the first time at the end of the 19th century. The emblem graces the bicycle's head tube.

1895 Adam Opel dies at the age of 58. His wife Sophie assumes responsibility for running the business, with the support of her sons.

1899 "Opel Patent Motor Car, System Lutzmann" is the name given to the first Opel automobile. It marks the beginning of production in Rüsselsheim, and forms the basis for building the first utility vehicles. Within the year, the company makes its international motor sport début.



Bicycle advertisement in the art nouveau style of the period, 1899.



The first Opel: the Patent Motor Car, System Lutzmann, 1899.



Advertisement for the Opel Patent Motor Car, 1899.



Automobile manufacture begins. Opel is the first brand name in car production.



Opel's first utility vehicle, based on the Patent Motor Car. Popularly known as the "Koloss von Rüsselsheim" (Giant of Rüsselsheim).

1901 Heinrich von Opel wins the Königsstuhl hill climb near Heidelberg in an Opel Lutzmann.
A contract is finalized with the French manufacturer Alexandre Darracq, authorizing Opel to produce Darracq automobiles under license.
Opel builds its first motorcycle.



In March 1901, Opel scores its first victory in motor sport, when Heinrich von Opel wins the Königsstuhl hill climb.



The 9 hp Opel Motor Car, System Darracq Tonneau, 1902.



The 9 hp Opel Motor Car, System Darracq Tonneau, 1902.



Advertisement for the Opel Darracq, from 1903.



The 16/18 hp Opel Motor Car, System Darracq, 1904–1906.

The Opel two-cylinder luxury motorcycle with 3 1/2 hp and electromagnetic ignition, from 1905.

Opel one-cylinder motorcycle with 3 3/4 hp, from 1905.

1902 The first Darracq chassis are outfitted with Opel bodies in Rüsselsheim. The vehicles are marketed under the brand name Opel Darracq. The first model built entirely by Opel, with a newly developed 10/12 hp, two-cylinder engine, is completed in fall of the same year.



The two-cylinder, 10/12 hp Opel Motor Car, the first model built entirely by Opel.



The 10/12 hp Opel Motor Car, 1902.



An advertisement from 1902/03 promotes various Opel products.



This emblem adorns the first vehicle constructed entirely by Opel, the 10/12 hp model from 1902.

1903 Opel develops its first four-cylinder engine, with 20/24 hp output.

1905 An Opel Darracq showroom and service center opens its doors near the Tiergarten park in Berlin.

1906 The one-thousandth Opel automobile leaves the factory. Opel establishes a branch factory in Berlin.



First Opel plant in Berlin, 1906.



Automobile exhibition in Berlin, 1906.

1907 In a specially built 60 hp car, Opel test driver and company race-car driver Carl Jörns wins the Kaiser's Prize Race in the Taunus region: Opel is awarded the Kaiser's Prize for the best German automobile and is designated purveyor to the court.



Image-building ad from 1907, Carl Jörns is honored by Kaiser Wilhelm II with the Kaiser's Prize.



The Kaiser's Prize Race takes place on June 14, 1907. Carl Jörns pilots Opel's entry.



Carl Jörns and Christian Michel proudly display the Kaiser's Prize Cup.



Carl Jörns with the Kaiser's Prize Cup, contributed by Kaiser Wilhelm II.

1909 Opel introduces an affordable compact car. The 4/8 hp two-seater, designed for customers who place great importance on dependability, becomes known as the "Doktorwagen" (Doctor's Car).



The 4/8 hp Opel "Doctor's Car" from 1909.



The 4/8 hp Opel "Doctor's Car" from 1909.



The Opel logotype in the expressive style of 1909 proudly graces the radiator grilles of Opel's 4/8 hp "Doctor's Car" and the 6/16 hp model.

1910 A modular production system is implemented: prefabricated car bodies are combined with various chassis and engines. Opel's market share in Germany grows to 12.3 percent.



Production hall for large vehicles, circa 1912.



Turning shop, circa 1912.



The so-called "Opel Eye," 1910-1935. Based on a suggestion from the Grand Duke of Hesse, the emblem design was realized in 1910 by Plant Manager Riedel and Mr. Stief from the construction department. It was modified in 1928.

1911 With a 6/16 hp model, Opel adopts the new "torpedo" body form. In addition, Opel responds to technological developments, filling new market gaps: the carmaker develops its first aircraft engine, which drives the Euler biplane. At the same time, the company builds a heavy-duty motorized plow for large farms. A major fire destroys a large part of the plant. Sewing-machine production ends with the manufacture of the one-millionth unit. The "Adam Opel Foundation" is established to fund an old-age pension plan for the company's workforce.



The 6/16 hp Opel Torpedo Double Phaeton from 1911.



The 6/16 hp Opel Torpedo Double Phaeton from 1911.



The two variants of the 10/24 hp Opel from 1911: a torpedo double phaeton and a covered limousine with a fold-down windshield.



Advertisement for the Opel aircraft engine built for the Euler biplane, from 1911.



The Opel aircraft engine, 1911.



The Opel motorized plough, 1912.



The fire of 1911. In the night of August 19, 1911, a large part of the plant was destroyed by fire.



The one-millionth, and last, Opel sewing machine, from 1911.

- 1912 Opel celebrates its fiftieth anniversary. The ten-thousandth Opel motorcar rolls out of the plant. Based on experience gathered from the major fire of 1911, the engineers in Rüsselsheim develop the "Motorized Fire Pump" for the plant fire brigade. The early fire engine is successfully marketed to towns and cities. A new flagship model is introduced: a substantial 40/100 hp four-cylinder vehicle.



The company celebrates its fiftieth anniversary with a gala event on August 23, 1912.



The Opel Motorized Fire Pump, from 1912.



Grand Duke Ernst Ludwig of Hesse by the Rhine in front of a 40/100 hp Opel, 1912.

- 1913 Race cars employing ground-breaking engine technology are developed for the Grand Prix season: the four-cylinder power units with 4-liter and 4.5-liter displacements feature four valves per cylinder and an overhead camshaft driven by a vertical shaft.



At the Huy Automobile Meeting in Belgium, Carl Jörns comes in first in the under 4-liter class and is declared overall winner, in October 1913.



The 110 hp Opel Grand Prix race car, from 1913.



The 110 hp Opel Grand Prix race car, from 1913.

- 1914 A record-breaking race car is developed, based on the engine technology that led to the 1913 Gran Prix triumph. The cutting-edge vehicle is not only one of the first cars to feature four-valve technology – at a swept volume of 12.3 liters, its four-cylinder, 16-valve power unit is the largest displacement engine to emerge from the Rüsselsheim facilities. Opel becomes Germany's largest automobile manufacturer.

A 5/14 hp model goes into production. The hugely successful car is dubbed "Puppchen" (little doll).

During WW I (1914–1918), Opel produces heavy trucks for the military.



In a 260 hp, 12.3-liter race car built in 1914, Carl Jörns wins first place in the over 5-liter class of the Schainsland hill climb, in August 1925.



Carl Jörns at the wheel of a 260 hp, 12.3-liter Opel race car from 1914. Beside him is his navigator, Kurt C. Volkhart.



The 260 hp race car with a 12.3-liter, 4-valve engine, built in 1914.



The Opel 3-ton heavy truck, built in 1914 to military specifications.



The 5/14 hp Opel, dubbed "Puppchen," from 1914.



Advertisement for the 5/14 hp Opel "Puppchen," 1914.

1916 In a 18/50 hp model, Opel introduces its first six-cylinder engine, with a displacement of 4.7 liters.



The 18/50 hp Opel from 1916.

1919 The Opel Racetrack, located south of Rüsselsheim, is inaugurated. The oval course with banked curves, paved in concrete, is the first permanent track for racing and testing in Germany – years ahead of other well-known racetracks, such as the Berlin AVUS and the Nürburgring.



The Opel Racetrack at Schönauer Hof near Rüsselsheim, circa 1931.



The Opel Racetrack during the racing season, 1920.



Car racing on the Opel Racetrack, circa 1923.

1920 The first works council is established at Opel.

1921 Opel builds an eight-cylinder engine, which proves itself in a number of races – notably in the Eifel race of 1922. Fritz von Opel wins the first car race on the AVUS track in Berlin, in the "eight taxable horsepower" class of the period.



Fritz von Opel wins the first car race on the Berliner AVUS, in an eight taxable horsepower race car.

- 1924 Investing one million gold marks, Opel completely modernizes its automobile production. The Rüsselsheim plant is the first German manufacturer to introduce the high-volume production methods of the future, including assembly-line processes. The first car to roll out of the updated plant: the legendary 4/12 hp model, best known as the "Laubfrosch" (Tree Frog), in reference to its green body paint and protruding headlamps. Opel dealerships introduce a revolutionary new service: standardized maintenance at fixed prices.



Assembly-line production of the 4/16 hp Opel, 1926.



A procession comprising the daily production quota of 125 "Tree Frogs" on the Opel Racetrack, 1924.



The 4/12 hp Opel "Laubfrosch" (Tree Frog), 1924



The 4/12 hp Opel "Laubfrosch" (Tree Frog), 1924



Advertisement for Opel customer service, 1929.

- 1926 Thanks to state-of-the-art production methods and strong demand, the price for the "Tree Frog" sinks from its original 4,500 marks to 2,980 marks, eventually dropping as low as 1,990 marks. This makes automobiles affordable for even broader sections of the public. The Rüsselsheim racing team scores a total of 75 victories in various motor sport classes.



Assembly-line production of an Opel car in 1926.



Southern German race tour, including the 24-hour Taunus race, June 18–28, 1926.
Driver: Senior Engineer Bergmann; Navigator: E. Zoogmann.



Advertisement for the Opel model range, circa 1927.



Motorcycle racing on the Opel Racetrack, 1926.

1928 With a market share of 37.5 percent, Opel is by far the largest German carmaker. In preparation for an alliance with General Motors, the company is converted into a listed stock corporation.

A new flagship model is christened: the Regent Limousine, powered by a 24/110 hp, eight-cylinder engine.

Motorcycle technology reaches a high point, with the introduction of the Motoclub. The avant-garde motorcycle features a pressed-steel frame, a modern teardrop-shaped fuel tank and an air-cushioned saddle.

The RAK rocket-propelled vehicle program begins: RAK 1 accelerates from zero to 100 km/h in just eight seconds on the Opel Racetrack. One month later, Fritz von Opel reaches a top speed of 238 km/h in the RAK 2 on the AVUS track in Berlin, to become a popular hero. On a closed stretch of railway tracks near Burgwedel, the rocket sled RAK 3 reaches 254 km/h, setting a new world record for speed on rails.



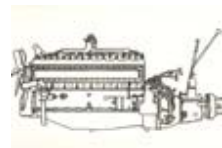
Advertisement from 1926.



The Opel Regent Luxur Limousine, featuring an eight-cylinder, in-line engine, 1928.



With his Opel Regent eight-cylinder Coupe, Fritz von Opel wins first prize in the Baden-Baden beauty competition, 1928.



The Regent's eight-cylinder engine



Opel Motoclub with 500 cc displacement on the Opel Racetrack, 1928.



Opel Motoclub Super Sport with 500 cc displacement, 1928.



Kurt C. Volkhart at the wheel of the first rocket car, Opel RAK 1, 1928.



Fritz von Opel in RAK 2 on the AVUS track in Berlin, May 23, 1928.



On June 23, 1928, the rocket-propelled rail vehicle RAK 3 is test-driven near Burgwedel.



Following the record-setting launch of June 23, 1928, the rocket-propelled rail vehicle RAK 3 is tested again near Burgwedel.



After the record run on June 23, 1928.

1929 General Motors acquires 80 percent of shares in the company Adam Opel AG for just under 26 million dollars, becoming majority stockholder. Opel is the first German manufacturer to establish an insurance company. Another first: the "Opel Bank" finances car purchases and arranges payment in installments. During the same year, Fritz von Opel makes the world's first manned rocket flight, in his RAK 1 Friedrich rocket aircraft at the former Frankfurt Airport, the Rebstock grounds.



The world's first rocket flight, on September 30, 1929. Pilot: Fritz von Opel.



Replica from 1999 of the rocket-propelled aircraft RAK 1, constructed by Julius Hatry in 1929.

1930 Market launch of the Opel Blitz truck series.



The 1.5-ton Opel Blitz truck, 1930.

1931 The Rüsselsheim plant builds the first "people's automobile," an affordable vehicle equipped with a 1.2-liter engine. Between 1931 and 1935, 100,000 units are built – a volume never before reached with a single model in Germany. General Motors acquires the remaining 20 percent of shares in the Opel corporation. Opel becomes the first carmaker to establish a school for customer service training.



Luis Trenker with his 1.2-liter Opel in the courtyard of the Rüsselsheim Opel headquarters, 1932.



The 1.2-liter Opel sedan, 1931.



Customer service training for Opel dealership staff, 1931.

1935 Opel unveils the Olympia, Germany's first mass-produced car with an all-steel integral body and frame. Advantages: low weight, greater passive safety and improved aerodynamics. At the same time, a new manufacturing process developed

and patented by the engineers in Rüsselsheim is introduced: the so-called “wedding” that unites the prefabricated body shell with the chassis and mechanical assemblies. Truck production facilities officially open in Brandenburg. The new plant, which began building trucks as early as November 1934, boasts an annual capacity of 25,000 Blitz models.

Opel becomes the first German carmaker to manufacture more than 100,000 vehicles per year.

With the P4, Opel introduces a compact car at an unbeatable price.



This “See-through Olympia” illustrates the principle of the integral all-steel body and frame.



The Opel Olympia Cabriolet sedan, 1935.



The wedding: final assembly by means of Opel's patented manufacturing process.



The truck plant in Brandenburg, 1937.



Opel Blitz chassis in a production hall of the Brandenburg plant, 1936.



The Opel P4 Special sedan, 1935.



Opel P4, Spezial- Limousine, 1935

1936 A further model featuring the safety of an integral frame and body rolls off the assembly lines in Rüsselsheim: the first Kadett. At the same time, the elegant and powerful Opel Super 6 is launched. The company is Europe's largest manufacturer and exporter of automobiles, boasting an annual production of 120,293 units.



The Opel Super 6 sedan, 1936.



The Opel Super 6 Cabriolet sedan, 1936.



The Opel Super 6 Gläser Cabriolet.



The Opel Kadett, 1936.



The Opel Kadett, 1936.



Advertisement from 1936.



From 1936 on, this emblem appears on the radiator grilles of all Opel Blitz truck models.

1937 Opel observes its seventy-fifth anniversary. The company focuses on automobile manufacture, selling its bicycle production to NSU – after building 2.6 million bicycles.
 The Opel Admiral, the new flagship powered by a 3.6-liter six-cylinder engine, is unveiled.
 Production of Frigidaire household refrigerators begins in Rüsselsheim.



The last Opel bicycle is produced on February 15, 1937.



Forerunners of the Opel Blitz emblem appear in 1937, in ads and on vehicles.



The oval logo is used from 1937 on as the logo for the Opel company and dealerships.



The Opel Admiral Cabriolet, 1937.



The Opel Admiral, 1937.



Advertisement for the Opel Admiral from 1937.



Emblem of the Opel Admiral, 1938.

1938 A new generation of the Olympia appears on the market. The first Opel Kapitän is presented to the public.



The Opel Kapitän, 1938.



The Opel Kapitän, 1938



Advertisement for the Opel Kapitän, 1938 - 40

1939 For the fourth consecutive year, Opel is the largest automaker in Europe, with a workforce of 25,374.



Aerial view of the Opel plant in Rüsselsheim, 1939.



The Opel plant at the end of the 1930s.

- 1940 Production of the one-millionth Opel, a Kapitän model. In October, a directive from the Nazi regime brings passenger-car production to a standstill. In addition to truck models, including four-wheel drive and track versions, military equipment such as landing gear, cockpits, and fuel tanks for aircraft etc. are produced.
- 1944 Allied bombs destroy half of the Rüsselsheim plant; the Brandenburg plant is almost completely destroyed.
- 1945 The entire Kadett production facilities are dismantled and sent to the Soviet Union as reparations.
- 1946 Production of Frigidaire household refrigerators recommences. The first postwar Opel, a 1.5-ton Blitz truck, is built.



On July 15, 1946, the first postwar Opel vehicle, a 1.5-ton Blitz truck, rolls off the Rüsselsheim assembly line.



Frigidaire refrigerators receive a final check, 1951.



A display of Frigidaire refrigerators at the Rüsselsheim plant, 1952.



The Frigidaire emblem.



Advertisement for Frigidaire refrigerators from the 1950s.

- 1947 Passenger car production resumes with the Olympia model.



Opel's first postwar passenger car, an Olympia, rolls off the Rüsselsheim assembly line on December 28, 1947.



Advertisement for the Opel Olympia, 1948.



The Opel Olympia sedan, 1947.

1948 The Rüsselsheim plant resumes production of the Kapitän, which enjoys a popular comeback.



Advertisement for the Opel Kapitän, 1948.



The Opel Kapitän, 1948–1950.



Rail transport of Opel Kapitän models from the Rüsselsheim plant, 1949.



The Opel Kapitän, 1948–1950.

1950 Reconstruction of the Rüsselsheim plant is completed.



The Opel plant in Rüsselsheim, 1950.



Production facilities in the Rüsselsheim Opel plant, 1950.



Production facilities in the Rüsselsheim Opel plant, 1950.



Production facilities in the Rüsselsheim Opel plant, 1950.



The Opel Olympia, 1950–1951.



The Opel Olympia Cabriolet sedan, 1950–1951.



The Opel Olympia, 1950–1951.



The Opel emblem from the 1930s undergoes minor modifications in the 1950s, signaling a new beginning for the company and dealerships.

1951 Opel becomes the first German manufacturer to establish on-site proving grounds, at the Rüsselsheim plant. Production of the third postwar generation of the Opel Olympia begins on the

assembly lines in Rüsselsheim.



Opel proving grounds in Rüsselsheim, 1951.



Hill climb test on the Opel proving grounds, 1951.



The Opel Olympia, 1951-1953.



Opel Olympia, 1951-1953.

1953 The Olympia Rekord, the first Opel with a full-width, or ponton, body shell and the legendary "shark's mouth" grille design, is presented at the IAA International Motor Show in Frankfurt. The first Opel station wagon is introduced to the market. Annual production once again exceeds 100,000 units. During the same year, the Opel Kapitän reappears with a completely restyled body and new technology.



The 1953 Opel Olympia Rekord undergoes testing on the Opel proving grounds.



The Opel Olympia Rekord at the 1953 IAA Motor Show in Frankfurt.



The Opel Olympia Rekord, 1953.



Ship transport of Opel Olympia Rekord models, 1953.



The Opel Olympia Rekord, 1953.



The Opel Olympia Rekord Caravan on a South American expedition organized by the University of Heidelberg in spring 1954.



The Opel Olympia Rekord Caravan on a South American expedition organized by the University of Heidelberg in spring 1954.



The Opel Kapitän, 1953-1955.



The Opel Kapitän, 1953-1955.

1956 The two-millionth Opel, a Kapitän, leaves the plant.



On November 9, 1956, the two-millionth Opel vehicle, a commemorative Kapitän with gold-plated fittings, rolls off the assembly lines in Rüsselsheim.



On November 9, 1956, the two-millionth Opel vehicle, a commemorative Kapitän with gold-plated fittings, rolls off the assembly lines in Rüsselsheim.

1957 The Opel Olympia Rekord P1 is presented at the IAA International Motor Show in Frankfurt. Around 850,000 units are sold within three years.



The Opel Olympia Rekord P1, 1957–1960.



The Opel Olympia Rekord Station Wagon P1, 1957 – 1960.

1958 A further generation of the Kapitän is introduced. In reference to the distinctive form of its taillights, the P1 model becomes known as the “Keyhole” Kapitän.



The Opel Kapitän P1, 1958–1959.



The Opel Kapitän P1, 1958–1959.



The Opel Kapitän P1, 1958–1959.

1959 Production of Frigidaire household refrigerators is ended. Opel introduces a Kapitän with a 2.6-liter engine, soon to become the most successful luxury-class model ever built in Rüsselsheim.



The Opel Kapitän P1, 1958–1959.



The Opel Kapitän plaque, 1959.

1960 The Opel Rekord P2 arrives. About 755,000 units are to be built in total.



The Opel Rekord P2, 1960–1963.

The Opel Rekord P2, 1960–1963.

The Opel Rekord P2 station wagon, 1960–1963.

1961 A sporty coupe is launched, rounding off the model line.



The Opel Rekord P2 Coupe, 1960–1963.



The Opel Rekord P2 Coupe, 1960–1963.

1962 Opel celebrates its one-hundredth anniversary. A plant is inaugurated in Bochum for the production of the new Opel Kadett.



A procession of cars marks the 100-year jubilee of Adam Opel AG, 1962.



A gala event on August 14, 1962, is held to celebrate the 100-year jubilee of Adam Opel AG. German Minister of Economic Affairs Prof. Dr. Ludwig Erhard addresses the assembly.



The Opel Kadett A, 1962–1965.



The Opel Kadett A Coupé, 1963–1965.



The new Opel plant in Bochum, 1962.



Final assembly (wedding) of an Opel Kadett A in the Bochum plant, 1963.



Advertisement for the Opel Kadett A, 1963–1965.

1963 Opel Rekord A is presented.



The Opel Rekord A Coupé, 1963–1965.



Advertisement for the Opel Rekord A, 1963.



The Opel Rekord A undergoes a final check in the Russelsheim plant, 1963.



All Opel Rekord A and Kadett A models built in 1963–64 sport this variant of the Blitz "bow and stern."

1964 Opel unveils three new luxury models: Kapitän, Admiral and Diplomat. These prestigious six- and eight-cylinder flagships capture the spirit of the times. All three are well received and become immediate market successes.



The "big three" from Opel. Left to right: Opel Diplomat A V8, Opel Admiral A and Opel Kapitän A, 1964.



The Opel Kapitän A, 1964–1965.



The Opel Admiral A, 1964–1965.



The Opel Diplomat A, 1964–1968.



Advertisement for Opel's "big three," 1964.



The Blitz adorns all Opel passenger cars in the 1964 model year.

1965 A new Kadett takes the place of its predecessor. By 1973, the B series Kadett becomes Opel's most successful model yet, selling 2.6 million units. The Rekord B is launched with a new engine generation. The fastest German production model coupe to date appears: the Diplomat V8.



The Opel Kadett B, 1965–1973.



The Opel Kadett B, 1965–1973.



The Opel Kadett B Coupe, 1965-1973



The Opel Kadett station wagon, 1965 – 1973.



The Opel Rekord B Luxus, 1965-1966.



The Opel Rekord B, 1965-1966.



The Opel Diplomat A Coupe, 1965–1967.

1966 The Bochum plant celebrates a milestone: the one-millionth Kadett leaves the assembly lines. Opel opens a new automotive proving grounds at Dudenhofen in the German state of Hesse, as well as a plant for manufacturing components in Kaiserslautern. The Rekord C goes into production, and the legendary Rallye Kadett is introduced to the market.



The one-millionth Opel Kadett rolls off the Bochum assembly



The Opel Proving Grounds in Dudenhofen, 1966.



The Opel Proving Grounds in Dudenhofen, 1966.



Opel components plant in Kaiserslautern, 1966.

lines on October 11, 1966.



The Opel Kadett B Coupe Rallye, 1966–1973.



The Opel Kadett B Coupe Rallye SR, 1966–1973.



The Opel Rekord C, 1966–1971.



The Opel Rekord C station wagon, 1966–1971.

1967 Opel launches the sporty Commodore A and a further Kadett model variant, the Kadett B LS.



The Opel Commodore A Coupe GS/E, 1970–1971.



The Opel Commodore A Coupe GS/E, 1970–1971.



Opel Commodore A, 1967-1971



Gerd Koch pilots an Opel Commodore A GS in Markenpokal (Opel Cup) racing, 1970.



The Opel Kadett B LS, 1967–1970.



The Opel Kadett B Coupe, LS, 1967–1970.



The Opel Kadett B Coupe Rallye LS, 1967–1970.

1968 The Opel GT arrives on the scene. Its advertising slogan “Only flying is better” is adopted as a popular figure of speech.



The Opel GT, 1968–1973.



Advertisement for the Opel GT from 1968.



Left to right: Opel Aero GT 1969, 1.9-liter Opel GT, 1968–1973, and the Opel Experimental GT from 1965.



The Opel GT/J, 1971.



Opel promotes the GT with the slogan “Only flying is better.”



The 1,9-liter Opel GT, 1968–1973.

1969 Opel introduces second-generation models of the Kapitän, Admiral and Diplomat.



The Opel Kapitän B, 1969–1970.



The Opel Admiral B, 1969–1977.



The Opel Diplomat B, 1969–1977.



The Opel Diplomat B V8, 1969–1977.

1970 The mid-class model Ascona A and the sporty Manta A are born. The Commodore GS/E with electronic fuel injection goes into production.



The Opel Manta A Luxus, 1970–1975.



Advertisement for the special edition Opel Manta A GT/E Black Magic, 1975.



The Opel Manta A GT/E, 1974–1975.



The Opel Ascona A Luxus, 1970–1975.



The Opel Ascona A Voyage station wagon, 1970–1975.



The Opel Ascona A SR, 1970–1975.



Advertisement for the Opel Ascona, 1972.



The square logo represents the company and dealerships, 1970.



The Commodore GS/E.

1971 The ten-millionth Opel rolls off the assembly line in the Rüsselsheim plant. The Rekord D goes into production, also in Rüsselsheim.



On September 6, 1971, the ten-millionth Opel, a Rekord C station wagon, rolls out of the plant.



The Opel Rekord D Luxus, 1972–1977.



The Opel Rekord D Luxus station wagon, 1972–1977.

1972 With a market share of 20.4 percent, Opel is the largest German automobile

manufacturer.

The Commodore B is introduced.

A modified Opel GT with the new Opel diesel engine sets two world records and 28 international records at the Dudenhofen proving grounds.



The Opel Commodore B GS/E, 1972–1977.



The Opel Commodore B Coupe GS, 1972–1977.



Opel's record-setting diesel vehicle based on the Opel GT, 1972.



Opel's record-setting diesel vehicle based on the Opel GT, 1972.



Opel's record-setting diesel vehicle based on the Opel GT, 1972.

1973 The Kadett C is launched. All told, roughly 1.7 million units of the model are to be built.

Seatbelts become standard equipment in all Opel models.



The Opel Kadett C, 1973–1978.



The Opel Kadett C Aero, 1976–1978.



The three body variants of the Opel Kadett C: sedan, station wagon and coupe, 1973–1979.



The Opel Kadett C GT/E Coupe, 1975–1977.



Advertisement with Walter Röhrl for the Opel Kadett C GT/E Coupe, 1975.



Walter Röhrl in an Opel Kadett C GT/E Coupe, at the Markenpokal (Opel Cup) races on the Nürburgring, 1976.



Kadett City

1974 Walter Röhrl and his navigator Jochen Berger become European Rally champions in an Ascona A.



The Opel Ascona A European championship car from 1974.



Walter Röhrl and Jochen Berger in an Opel Ascona A during the Moldow Rally, 1974.



The European Rally champions of the 1974 season. Walter Röhrl (right) and Jochen Berger (left).

1975 The Ascona B and Manta B go into production.



The Opel Manta B SR, 1975–1988.



The Opel Manta B Luxus, 1975–1988.



The Opel Manta B SR (foreground) and GT/E (background), 1975.



The Opel Manta B CC Berlinetta, 1975–1988.



The Opel Manta B GT/E, 1977–1988.



The Opel Ascona B Luxus, 1975–1981.



The Opel Ascona B Berlina, 1975–1981.



The Opel Ascona B J, 1975–1981.



The Opel Ascona B SR, 1975–1981.



The Opel Ascona B 400, 1979–1981.

1977 The Rekord E succeeds the Rekord D.



The '77 Opel Rekord E, 1977–1982.



The '77 Opel Rekord E Berlina, 1977–1982.



The '77 Opel Rekord E diesel, 1977–1982.



The '77 Opel Rekord E station wagon, 1977–1982.

1978 Two new stars enter the big leagues of the automobile market: the luxurious four-door Senator and the sporty fastback coupe Monza. The top-of-the-line power unit for both models is a newly developed three-liter six-cylinder engine with an output of 180 hp.



The '78 Opel Senator A, 1978–1982.



The '78 Opel Senator A, 1978–1982.



The '78 Opel Monza A, 1978–1982.



The '78 Opel Monza A, 1978–1982.

1979 Production of the first front-wheel-drive Opel, the Kadett D, begins in Bochum.



The Opel Kadett D Berlina, 1979–1984 .



Final assembly (wedding) of an Opel Kadett D in the Bochum plant, 1979.



The Opel Kadett D GT/E, 1983–1984.



The Opel Kadett D Luxus, 1979–1984.

1981 The engineering study Tech 1 demonstrates Opel's pioneering role in the field of aerodynamics: the experimental vehicle achieves a drag coefficient of 0.235, setting a world record. Opel becomes the first carmaker to use environmentally friendly water-based paints. The Ascona C and the performance-oriented Manta B 400 enter the market.



Opel's Tech 1 study, 1981.



Opel's Tech 1 study, 1981.



The paint shop in Rüsselsheim, 1981.



Automated painting in the Rüsselsheim plant.



Body variants of the Opel Ascona C, 1981–1988.



The Opel Ascona C Luxus, 1981–1988.



The Opel Ascona C Berlina, 1981–1988.



The Opel Manta B 400, 1981–1984.



The Opel Manta B 400, 1981–1984.



The Opel Manta B 400, 1981–1984.

1982 A new plant is commissioned in Saragossa, Spain, for the production of the Opel Corsa. The compact model rapidly advances to become the bestselling vehicle in its class. Walter Röhrl and his navigator Christian Geistdörfer prevail over tough four-wheel-drive competitors, piloting their Ascona 400 to victory in the Monte Carlo Rally and winning the Rally World Championship.



The plant in Saragossa, 1982.



Production of the Opel Corsa in the Saragossa plant, 1982.



The Opel Corsa A GSi, 1988–1992.



The Opel Corsa A Swing, 1988–1992.



Opel Corsa A Luxus, 1982–1992



Walter Röhrl and Christian Geistdörfer win the Rally World Championship in an Opel Ascona B 400, 1982.



The winners of the Monte Carlo Rally, 1982: Walter Röhrl and Christian Geistdörfer in their Opel Ascona B 400.



The Opel Ascona B 400, piloted to victory in the Rally World Championship by Walter Röhrl and Christian Geistdörfer, 1982.



The '82 Opel Senator A, 1982–1986.



The '82 Opel Senator A, 1982–1986, (foreground) and '82 Opel Monza A, 1982–1986 (background).



The '82 Opel Monza A, 1982–1986.



The '82 Opel Rekord E Luxus, 1982–1986.



The '82 Opel Rekord E 1982–1986



The '82 Opel Rekord E Luxus diesel, 1982–1986.



The '82 Opel Rekord E GLS diesel, 1982–1986.



The '82 Opel Rekord E GLS station wagon, 1982–1986.

1983 Opel's 20-millionth vehicle, a Senator, leaves the Rüsselsheim production facilities.



On May 25, 1983, the 20-millionth Opel, a Senator, rolls off the Rüsselsheim assembly lines.



On May 25, 1983, the 20-millionth Opel, a Senator, rolls off the Rüsselsheim assembly lines.

1984 The Kadett E is introduced. The GSi version, with a drag coefficient of 0.30, is the most aerodynamic vehicle in its class worldwide. The Kadett is elected Car of the Year by an international jury.



The Opel Kadett E LS, 1984–1991.



The Opel Kadett E GSi, 1984–1991.



Advertisement for the Opel Kadett E, 1985.

1985 Opel becomes the first German manufacturer to include a vehicle with a catalytic converter in every model line.



The Opel stand at the 985 IAA Motor Show in Frankfurt.

1986 The Opel Omega makes its debut, boasting the best drag coefficient in its class, at 0.28.
The Omega is elected Car of the Year.



The Opel Omega A CD, 1986–1994.



The Opel Omega A CD station wagon, 1986–1994.



The Opel Omega A 3000, 1986–1993.

1987 Opel celebrates its 125-year jubilee.
The Senator B is presented to the public.



125jähriges Jubiläum, 1987. Opel's 125-year jubilee, 1987. From right: German Chancellor Dr. Helmut Kohl, Supervisory Board Chairman Ferdinand Beickler, Chairman of the Board of Directors Dr. Horst W. Herke.



Poster marking the 125-year jubilee, 1987.



Corporate logo, 1987–2002.



The Opel Senator B CD, 1987–1993.



The Opel Senator B CD, 1987–1993.



The Opel Senator B, 1987–1993.



The Opel Senator B CD, 1987–1993.

1988 The Opel Vectra is introduced. The mid-size model, available in a choice of two body variants, is an immediate bestseller. The Vectra is characterized by dynamic design and driving comfort combined with technologically advanced drivetrain and chassis solutions. An all-wheel-drive version is available.



The Opel Vectra A GL, 1988–1993.



The Opel Vectra A, 1988–1995.



The Opel Vectra A GL, 1988–1993.



The Vectra A 2000, 1988–1993.

1995.

1995.

1992.

1989 Opel introduces three-way catalytic converter, 1989 as standard equipment in all models, a the first among European car manufacturers.
 The Opel Calibra is launched, with a world-best drag coefficient of 0.26.
 The 25-millionth Opel rolls off the production line in Rüsselsheim.
 The Adam Opel Prize for outstanding academic performance in engineering is awarded for the first time, in Rüsselsheim, Bochum and Kaiserslautern.



Three-way catalytic converter, 1989.



Three-way catalytic converter installation, 1989.



The Opel Calibra, 1990–1997.



The Opel Calibra, 1990–1997.



The Opel Calibra, 1990–1997.



Wind-tunnel testing of the Opel Calibra, 1989.



The 25-millionth Opel, an Omega A, leaves the Rüsselsheim plant on February 23, 1989.

1990 Opel becomes the first automaker to implement a recycling chain for plastics. The move reflects the company's commitment to environmentally friendly technology: the Rüsselsheim engineers systematically eliminate hazardous materials such as asbestos and cadmium from the manufacturing process. At the same time, sustainable reductions of paint solvents and chlorofluorocarbons (CFC) are achieved.



Plastics recycling at Opel, 1990.

1991 After years of outstanding performance on the road and in the market, Kadett production comes to an end. Its successor: the Astra. The new vehicle is equipped with the Opel Safety System, including side-impact protection, anti-submarining ramps in the seats, and seatbelt tensioners.
 The company launches its first off-road vehicle, the Frontera, which becomes European market leader in its class within a year.



Body variants of the '91 Opel Astra F, 1991–1998.



The '91 Opel Astra F CD, 1991–1995.

The '91 Opel Astra F GSi, 1991–1998.



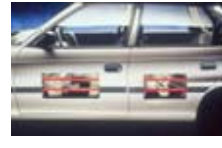
The '91 Opel Astra F Motion, 1995–1997.

The '91 Opel Astra F Club station wagon, 1993–1998.



The Opel Safety System in the Astra F, 1992: seatbelt tensioner.

The '91 Opel Astra F California, March–June 1994.



The Opel Safety System in the Astra F, 1992: side-impact protection.



The '98 Opel Frontera Sport, 1998–2004.



The '98 Opel Frontera Sport, 1998–2004.



The '91 Opel Frontera Sport, 1991–1994.

1992 In Eisenach, the world's most advanced automobile manufacturing plant begins production based on the innovative principle of lean production. The off-road vehicle Opel Monterey and the light utility vehicle Campo Sports Cap are launched.



The Opel plant in Eisenach, 1995.



The Opel Eisenach plant, 1995.



Frame construction at the Eisenach plant, 1995.



Vehicles undergo a final check at the Eisenach plant, 1996.



Opel Eisenach, soak tower, 1992.



Opel Eisenach, view of the plant, 1995.



The '98 Opel Monterey RS, 1998–1999.



The Opel Campo Sports Cap, 1992–2002.

1993 The second-generation Corsa arrives. With its winning design, the new Corsa rapidly advances to the top of its class in Europe. For years it consistently defends its leading position.



The Opel Corsa B Sport, 1993–2000.



The Opel Corsa B GSi, 1993–1995.



The Opel Corsa B GSi, 1993–1995.



The '93 Opel Corsa B Joy, 1993–2000.



The '97 Opel Corsa B Swing, 1997–2000.

1994 A new generation of the Omega is presented. The sporty coupe Opel Tигра makes its debut.



The '94 Opel Omega B MV/6 sedan and station wagon, 1994–1997.



The '94 Opel Omega B MV/6, 1994–1997.



The '99 Opel Omega B, 1999–2003.



The '99 Opel Omega B station wagon, 1999–2003.



The '94 Opel Omega B 1994–1999.



The Opel Tигра, 1994–2000.



The Opel Tигра, 1994–2000.



The Opel Tигра, 1994–2000.

1995 Opel introduces the Vectra B. Another first among German carmakers: Opel equips all of its passenger cars with full-size airbags for the driver and front-seat passenger. In the new Vectra, Opel becomes the first major auto manufacturer worldwide to introduce the Pedal Release System and the hybrid airbag.



The Vectra B fastback, 1995.



The Vectra B CD 2.5 V6 4-door 1995.



The Vectra B CD 4-door, 1995.



Model variants of the Vectra B, 1995.



Full-size airbag in the Opel Vectra, 1993.



The Pedal Release System in the Opel Vectra 1995.

1996 Opel becomes the world's first manufacturer to combine the advantages of four-valve technology with direct-injection and turbocharging in a diesel passenger car. Production of the Cadillac Catera, based on the Omega, begins in Rüsselsheim. Manuel Reuter wins the International Touring Car Championship (ITC) in an Opel Calibra.



The Opel 2.0 DTI 16V engine, 1996.



The Cadillac Catera, 1997–2000.



ITC champion Manuel Reuter in an Opel Calibra on the Hockenheimring track, May 1996.



ITC champion Manuel Reuter in an Opel Calibra on the Hockenheimring track, May 1996.



The Vectra B 2.5 V6 station wagon, 1996.

- 1997 Opel launches its “Mobility Initiative” with a navigation system for the Vectra and Omega models. For the first time, a European passenger car is equipped with a three-cylinder engine. The one-liter unit, operating with four valves per cylinder, is offered in the Corsa. With the Arena, Opel re-enters the commercial vehicle market segment.



Navigation system in the Opel Omega.



The Opel Corsa B with the ECOTEC Compact 3-cylinder 1.0-liter 12V engine, 1997–2001.



The Opel ECOTEC Compact 3-cylinder 1.0-liter 12V engine, 1997.



Opel Arena panel truck, 1998–2000.

- 1998 New corporate headquarters are established in Rüsselsheim: the Adam Opel Building is inaugurated by German Chancellor Dr. Helmut Kohl. Expansion continues in the commercial vehicle sector with the Movano. New Astra models go into production. The off-road vehicles Monterey and Frontera appear as redesigned models. The one-millionth Vectra leaves the Rüsselsheim plant. Opel commissions a new plant in Gliwice, Poland.



The new corporate head-



The new corporate head-



The Opel Movano panel truck,



The `98 Opel Astra G 1998 –

Quarters, the Adam Opel Building in Rüsselsheim, 1998.

quarters, the Adam Opel Building in Rüsselsheim, 1998.

1999 – 2003.

2002.



The '98 Opel Astra G 1998 – 2002.



The '98 Opel Astra G station wagon, 1998-2002.



The '98 Opel Astra G, model range, 1998-2002.



The '98 Opel Frontera, 1998-2004.



The Opel plant in Gliwice, 1998.

1999 Opel marks a century of automotive excellence. The Opel Millennium Express, an award-winning multimedia exhibition occupying an entire railway train, rolls through Europe. The visitor center Opel Live opens its doors to the public. The 50-millionth Opel, an Omega, rolls off the assembly line in Rüsselsheim. With the Zafira, Opel launches a new class of compact vans, featuring the widely versatile interior concept Flex-7.



100 years of Opel automobiles, 1999.



The Opel Millennium Express on tour, 1999.



The Opel Millennium Express on tour, 1999.



The Opel Millennium Express on tour, 1999.



Opel Live, 1998.



Opel Live, 1998



The 50-millionth Opel, an Omega, leaves the Rüsselsheim plant on December 2, 1999.



The 50-millionth Opel, an Omega, leaves the Rüsselsheim plant on December 2, 1999.



Jubilee logo: 100 years of car production.



The '99 Opel Zafira, 1999–2002.



The '99 Opel Zafira, 1999–2002.



The Flex-7 seating system for the Opel Zafira MY 99.

2000 Production of the Opel Agila begins. Germany's first microvan is the perfect city vehicle. The key to its success: maximum utilization of space yet manageable overall dimensions, combined with a fuel-efficient engine. In Geneva, Opel presents a Zafira concept vehicle powered by fuel cells. A 2.2-liter light-metal engine, generating 147 hp/108 kW of output, becomes available. The Astra Coupe makes its début.

A Zafira variant powered by natural gas is introduced.



The Opel Agila, 2000.



The Opel Agila, 2000.



The Opel Zafira HydroGen1, 2000.



The Opel ECOTEC 2.2-liter 16V aluminum engine, 2000.



The ` 2000 Opel Corsa C, 2000-2003



The ` 2000 Opel Corsa C, Sport, 2000-2003



The Opel Astra G Coupe, 2000.



The Opel Astra G Turbo Coupe, 2001.



The Opel Astra G Turbo Coupe, 2001.



The Opel Zafira CNG, powered by natural gas, 2001.

2001 A worldwide bestseller enters its third generation: the updated Opel Corsa continues its success story.
 The purebred driving machine Opel Speedster arrives on the scene.
 A second-generation Astra Cabrio is introduced.
 Opel unveils the Vivaro.
 With the Zafira OPC, Opel presents the fastest production-model van in Europe, while at the same time introducing the Opel Zafira CNG.
 The Astra Coupe OPC X-Treme vehicle study is exhibited in Geneva.
 The fuel cell-powered Zafira HydroGen 1 sets 15 international records.



The Opel Combo Tour, 2002.



The Opel Combo, 2002.



The Opel Combo Tour, 2002.



The Opel Speedster, 2001.



The Opel Speedster Turbo, 2003.



The Opel Astra G Cabrio Turbo, 2002.



The Opel Astra G Cabrio Linea Rossa, 2003.



The Opel Astra G Cabrio, 2001.



The Opel Vivaro, 2001.



The Opel Vivaro, 2001.



The Opel Zafira CNG.



The Opel Zafira CNG, 2002.



The Opel Zafira OPC, 2002.



The Opel Zafira OPC, 2002.



The Opel HydroGen1, 2000.



The Opel Astra OPC X-Treme, 2001.



The Opel Astra OPC X-Treme, 2001.



The Opel Astra OPC X-Treme, 2001.



The Opel Astra OPC X-Treme, 2001.



The Opel Astra OPC X-Treme, 2001.

2002 Opel starts the new image campaign "Opel. Fresh Thinking for Better Cars."
 "German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder inaugurates the world's most advanced automobile manufacturing facilities, in Rüsselsheim.
 The new Opel Vectra arrives on the market.
 Opel in Berlin, the company's prestigious headquarters in the capital, opens its doors.
 Opel presents its first sustainability report.



Advertisement for the Opel Vectra C, 2002.



Advertisement for the Opel Corsa C, 2002.

Advertisement for the Opel Corsa C, 2002.



The new Opel plant in Rüsselsheim.



The new Opel plant in Rüsselsheim.



Initial body assembly in the new plant, 2002.



Initial body assembly in the new plant, 2002.



Initial body assembly in the new plant, 2002.



Opel headquarters in Berlin, 2002.



The Opel Vectra C, 2002.



The Opel Vectra C, 2002.



The Opel Vectra C GTS, 2002.

2003 The Opel Speedster Turbo and the natural gas-powered Opel Astra station wagon 1.6 CNG are introduced to the German market. The Opel Signum and Meriva are unveiled simultaneously in Germany. Opel opens a new test and event center in Pferdsfeld. The carmaker in Rüsselheim launches an engine initiative, with four new CDTI common-rail diesel units and the fuel-saving technology TWINPORT for its gasoline engines. The first Opel Ironman Germany triathlon is held in Frankfurt. The Opel triathlon team performs well, taking a number of leading positions. The fuel cell-powered Zafira HydroGen3 begins tests under everyday driving conditions on public roads in Tokyo and in Washington. The Opel ECO Speedster sets 17 international records on the Opel proving grounds in Dudenhofen. Highlights of the Frankfurt International Motor Show IAA include world premieres of the third-generation Opel Astra, the new Opel Vectra station wagon, the Insignia sedan design study and a maintenance-free diesel particulate filter system.



The Opel Speedster Turbo, 2003.



The Opel Astra CNG station wagon, 2003.



The Opel Signum, 2002.



The Opel Signum, 2002.



The Opel Meriva, 2002.



The Opel Meriva, 2002



The Opel Meriva, 2002



The Opel Ecotec TWINPORT-Engine.



The HydroGen3, 2002.



The HydroGen3, 2002.



The Opel Eco Speedster sets a new record on the Dudenhofen proving grounds, July 26/27, 2003.



The Opel Eco Speedster sets a new record on the Dudenhofen proving grounds, July 26/27, 2003.



The Opel Eco Speedster sets a new record on the Dudenhofen proving grounds, July 26/27,



The Opel Eco Speedster sets a new record on the Dudenhofen proving grounds, July 26/27,



The Opel Eco Speedster sets a new record on the Dudenhofen proving grounds, July 26/27,



The Opel Astra makes its worldwide debut at the IAA in Frankfurt, 2003.

2003.



The Opel Vectra C station wagon, 2003.

2003.



The Opel Vectra C station wagon, 2003.

2003.



Maintenance-free diesel particulate filter for Opel engines.



The Opel Insignia design study, 2003.



The Opel Insignia design study, 2003.



The Opel Insignia design study, 2003.

2004 The Opel Astra enters its third generation. The Tigra TwinTop and Astra station wagon are introduced to the market. The Astra GTC is presented at the Paris Motor Show.

Opel has produced roughly 60 million vehicles to date.



The Opel Astra H, 2004.



The Opel Astra H, 2004.



The Opel Astra H, 2004.



The Opel Astra H station wagon, 2004.



The Opel Astra H station wagon, 2004.



The Opel Tigra TwinTop, 2004.



The Opel Tigra TwinTop, 2004.



The Opel Tigra TwinTop, 2004.



The Opel TigraTwin Top, 2004



The Opel TigraTwin Top, 2004



The Opel ECOTEC 1.9 CDTI engine, 2004.

2005 Opel Zafira 1.6 CNG (Compressed Natural Gas) is the top-selling car with alternative propulsion in Germany.

World premieres of Astra and Zafira OPC models at Geneva Motor Show.

Series production of new Zafira begins at Bochum plant and sales start of compact van, which was awarded five stars in Euro NCAP safety tests.

A fuel-cell powered Zafira HydroGen3 is used as a customer service vehicle as part of the Clean Energy Partnership (CEP) project, which is supported by the German Federal Government.

Journalists from 26 countries name the 1.3 CDTI ECOTEC engine “Engine of the Year 2005” in the 1.0 to 1.4-liter displacement category.

Market launch of extensively enhanced Vectra and Signum models.

All diesel passenger cars are available with a diesel particulate filter from the summer. World premieres of sporty-elegant Astra TwinTop cabrio-coupé, Antara SUV concept, Vectra OPC and new Zafira CNG at the IAA in Frankfurt.

Meriva is presented at the Bologna Motor Show with an enhanced design and new refined technology. OPC version debuts at Essen Motor Show.

Zafira wins “Golden Steering Wheel” for best compact van.



The Opel Astra H GTC, 2005.



The Opel Astra H GTC, 2005.



The Opel Zafira 1,6 CNG, 2005



The Opel Astra OPC, 2005



The Opel Zafira OPC, 2005



Production of the new Zafira, 2005



Emission-Free Service Trips for Ikea customers with the Zafira HydroGen3, 2005



1.3 CDTI ECOTEC, 2005



The Opel Vectra, 2005



The Opel Signum, 2005



Particulate filter, 2005



The Opel Astra Twintop, 2005



The Opel Antara GTC, 2005



The Opel Vectra OPC, 2005



The Opel Meriva, 2005



The Opel Meriva OPC, 2005



Zafira wins the "Golden Steering Wheel" award, 2005

2006 Production start of Astra GTC with panorama windshield. Extending up into the middle of the roof, it is the first panorama glazing of its type to be fitted in a series production car.

New Opel GT makes its premiere at the Geneva Motor Show. The sporty car, now as a roadster, continues the history of the legendary GT from the 1960s.

GM Europe opens a new European Design Center in Rüsselsheim.

New versions of the Vivaro and Movano go into production.

World premiere of fourth-generation Corsa at the British International Motor Show in London; series production begins in Eisenach and Zaragoza.

New Corsa receives five stars in Euro NCAP crash test for passenger protection; Corsa becomes first series-production car to feature Opel's integrated rear bicycle carrier system Flex-Fix.

The first series-production versions of the new four-wheel drive Antara crossover are available to customers.



Opel GT 2006



Opel Antara 2006



Opel Corsa D 2006



Opel Corsa D 2006



Opel Corsa D 2006
Alain Visser, Sean Paul



Opel Corsa D OPC, 2006

2007 New-edition Astra is launched with new engines, improved technology and fresh design accents.

Opel begins the OPC Race Camp: after many tough test phases, 18,500 applicants are reduced to the ten best drivers, who will take part in the Nürburgring 24-hour race in 2008.

Opel GTC Concept heralds a new, progressive brand design era at the Geneva Motor Show. World premiere of top-of-the-line Corsa OPC with 192 hp and 1.6-liter turbo engine.

150 hp Corsa GSi premieres at Barcelona Motor Show.

Manuel Reuter sets supermini circuit record of 8 minutes, 47.99 seconds around the Nürburgring-Nordschleife in a series-production Corsa OPC.

Opel presents Flextreme at the IAA; car marks a milestone in the development of a new propulsion concept. The car features an electric engine which receives its power from

batteries. A combustion engine is onboard solely to charge the batteries. With the completely new, environmentally friendly E-Flex system, commuters can travel up to 55 kilometers every day while emitting no CO2 emissions.

Corsa 1.3 CDTI ecoFLEX also makes its premiere at IAA. Equipped with a diesel particulate filter as standard, the supermini emits just 119 grams CO2 per kilometer and has an average consumption of just 4.5 liters of diesel per 100 kilometers.

Corsa is the top-selling supermini in Germany.



Opel Astra H, MY 2007



Opel Astra H GTC, MY 2007
with panorama windshield



Opel GTC Concept, 2007



Opel Corsa ecoFLEX, 2007
Corsa Hybrid Concept



Opel Flextrame, 2007
IAA 2007



Opel Movano, 2007



Opel Vivao, MY 2008



Opel Insignia, 11/2007