

English Translation

# Maybach Opens Schaudepot in Friedrichshafen City Center

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*Original article by Dirk Augustin*

*Portraits of Wilhelm and Karl Maybach on the facade had already suggested for some time that something special was being planned at Karlstraße 41. Now, something is visible there.*

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**FRIEDRICHSHAFEN** - The people responsible for the project around Ulrich Schmid-Maybach, grandson of Karl Maybach, do not want to call it a museum. They prefer to call it a Schaudepot. In the rear section, they plan to store the roughly 5,000 items collected so far by the Friends of the Maybach Museum. Part of the collection will be on display in the front exhibition area.

For now, the rooms are still closed, but through the shop window a light box can already be seen. It recalls that three Maybach engines powered an airship that carried Roald Amundsen to the North Pole in May 1926. The pioneering flight covered more than 12,500 kilometers.

The rest of the 140-square-meter exhibition space is not yet fully finished. The opening is therefore planned for September. However, Schmid-Maybach has already presented the rooms and the concept to invited guests. Lord Mayor Simon Blümcke was also present and said he was pleased: "It is wonderful to see that this central part of Friedrichshafen's technological history is now being anchored where it belongs: in the heart of the city." With the Zeppelin Museum, the Dornier Museum, the exhibition at the ZF Forum and the Maybach Schaudepot, the city now has four places that highlight the important role Friedrichshafen has played in the history of mobility.

Schmid-Maybach thanked his long-standing companions. Above all, his mother Irmgard Schmid-Maybach, who passed away in 2021, had worked for many years to create an appropriate place of remembrance for her father and grandfather. "With the Schaudepot, we are taking a major step closer to this goal," said Schmid-Maybach, founder and president of the Wilhelm & Karl Maybach Foundation, which is covering all costs of the Schaudepot.

The cars that attracted passersby in the pedestrian zone for the opening were only there briefly. However, the exhibition space has been designed in such a way that a car could be moved inside and presented there. After all, everyone involved knows that it is these cars that continue to shape Maybach's reputation to this day.

This makes it all the more important to curator David Pfeffer and his fellow contributors to show all facets of the work of the two technical pioneers. The text panels do not only present their biographies, but also describe Wilhelm Maybach's role alongside Gottlieb Daimler in the development of the first automobile. Later, the Maybachs were involved in motorizing mobility on land, on water and in the air.

The display cases show the role their inventions played in automobiles, as well as in locomotives, ships, Zeppelins and aircraft. The exhibition also does not leave out darker chapters and describes how Maybach became an armaments company under the Nazis, producing tank engines with forced laborers. After the war, the factory site, which had been bombed several times, was completely destroyed.

After the war, the former Maybach works became MTU, later Tognum and today Rolls-Royce Power Systems. Mercedes-Benz also revived the Maybach brand, under which it continues to sell the absolute top class of its automobiles today.

Christoph Felder, chairman of the Friends of the Maybach Museum Association, is pleased that the association's collection has found a home. The plan is not to show all pieces at the same time, but to present special items in the display cases and to change them regularly. The association currently has just under 200 members, and Felder emphasized that interested people are welcome.

From September, the Schauderpot is intended to become a meeting place for Maybach enthusiasts, with admission by donation. It will also provide space for children's and youth education and mentoring. Schmid-Maybach recalled that his grandfather and great-grandfather were responsible for groundbreaking inventions that continue to shape our world today. "Maybach originally stood not only for luxury, but for technical solutions at the limits of what was possible."

Anyone interested in the Maybach Schauderpot can find more information online at: <https://maybach.org/de-schaudepot/>

## **Photos:**



**Main photo:** For the opening with invited guests, the famous Maybach classic cars attracted attention in Friedrichshafen's pedestrian zone. These automotive treasures will unfortunately not remain there permanently. Photo: Maybach Foundation.



**Bottom left photo:** Lord Mayor Simon Blümcke and other invited guests are pleased that the Schaudepot already offers something to see in the shop window. The official opening is planned for September. Photo: Felix Kästle / Maybach Foundation.



**Bottom right photo:** Ulrich Schmid-Maybach and his sister Catherine, in the front, are pleased that Karl and Wilhelm Maybach, the grandfather and great-grandfather, are honored in the Schaudepot. Photo: Felix Kästle / Maybach Foundation.