

Berlin, May 27, 2013

“Electric Mobility Going Global”

The Federal Government stages an international conference on electric mobility in Berlin

Today and tomorrow, over 900 distinguished representatives from industry, academia, society and government from Germany and all over the world are meeting in Berlin to attend a conference entitled “Electric Mobility Going Global”. At this event, hosted by the Federal Government, delegates are discussing the potential inherent in electric mobility and the challenges it faces, in the form of presentations, panel discussions and expert fora. The intention is to get together to debate strategies and action for the further market ramp-up of electric mobility. The Federal Government is represented at the conference by the Federal Chancellor and the four federal ministries responsible for electric mobility. The conference is being staged in cooperation with the National Platform for Electric Mobility.

At the conference, the Federal Chancellor, Dr Angela Merkel, reiterated the objective of putting one million electric vehicles on the roads in Germany by 2020 and of becoming a lead provider of and a lead market for electric mobility. “Electric mobility requires extensive cooperation, across both sectoral and national boundaries, if we are to reduce the climate change impact of mobility in as much of the world as possible. Our National Platform for Electric Mobility plays an especially important role here. Numerous bilateral contacts and joint Federal Government projects underscore just how important close international cooperation is to us.”

The Federal Minister of Economics and Technology, Dr Philipp Rösler, said: “Thanks to its highly innovative industry, Germany is in an excellent position to progress the emerging technology that is electric mobility. We are supporting industry as it interlinks even more closely with academia. New products and services will generate high-value jobs. One thing that is very important here is that the technological developments must be supported by the market.”

The Federal Minister of Transport, Building and Urban Development, Dr Peter Ramsauer, said: “In Germany, we are on the right track as far as electric mobility is concerned. But there is more to it than just good cars and high-performance batteries. The installation of public and private infrastructure must fit into urban and transport planning in an intelligent manner. One thing is very important. New technologies and mobility strategies have to be accepted by the public. Because this is the crucial factor on which their success will depend. The trialling of electric cars in showcases and electric mobility pilot regions is an important step in this direction. People will be able to see for themselves just how attractive the use of an electric car can be.”

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The Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Peter Altmaier, said: “Without electric mobility, transport will run out of fuel in the long term. If driving a car is not to be a luxury in twenty years' time, we need an alternative to oil – and not just to protect the environment and mitigate climate change. It is imperative that we follow a new direction in the field of energy for transport. Electric cars prove that there is no contradiction whatsoever between efficiency and the enjoyment of driving.”

The Federal Minister of Education and Research, Prof. Johanna Wanka, said: “For electric mobility, we need to rethink the concept of the car. The key is research, especially for new, higher-capacity battery generations, significantly more efficient drivetrains and the initial and continuing training of engineers and skilled workers. By funding research and development, we will get the necessary innovations up-and-going.

The Federal Government is conducting an extensive research programme to support research, development and demonstration projects in the field of electric mobility. By the end of this year, projects with funding totalling just under 1.5 billion euros will have been launched. Among other things, the projects have laid a major foundation for the manufacture of mass-produced vehicles. This can also be seen in an exhibition on the sidelines of the conference, where automotive manufacturers are presenting electrically operated production vehicles and the latest developments in the electric mobility sector.

At the conference, the electric mobility showcases and lighthouse projects funded by the Federal Government are being presented. In the years ahead, the showcase projects in Baden-Württemberg, Bavaria/Saxony, Berlin/Brandenburg and Lower Saxony will vividly illustrate how electric mobility can work in the future. The showcases will also help to raise the global visibility of the German industry's capabilities and to enable people to experience them. In addition, six new lighthouse projects are being presented at the conference. They will make a significant contribution to technological progress or will help to cut the costs of electric mobility.

In front of the conference centre, there is an opportunity to take a test drive in an electric car.

The conference is being organized by the Federal Government Joint Unit for Electric Mobility.

Further information on the conference can be found at www.konferenz-elektromobilitaet.de. The conference is also being webstreamed live on this site.