First prototype of a European marketplace for electromobility in test within the Green eMotion project

To enable Europe-wide electromobility in practice, a marketplace was developed within the EU funded demonstration project Green eMotion. The project will demonstrate Europe-wide roaming in an interoperable electromobility system and provide access to new added-value services. Via this marketplace concept users of electric vehicles will be able to access charging infrastructure anywhere in Europe in a convenient way. As a first step a service to search for charging points in the participating regions will be demonstrated.

One of the objectives of Green eMotion is to develop an IT system that includes the definition of the interfaces needed for a European marketplace for electromobility services and the practical demonstration of its functionality. The aim is to ensure that users of electric vehicles can access the charging infrastructure anywhere in Europe and that it is simple to operate. The corresponding service offering, for example roaming between different charging point operators (roaming in this context meaning the use of a charging service outside the coverage area of the contractual provider), will thus be enabled on a pan-European scale, similar to the situation we are familiar with today with mobile phones. The business-to-business (B2B) marketplace will also be open to other market places and service providers so that innovative new concepts for electromobility can be offered in an uncomplicated manner.

This marketplace will be used in practically all Green eMotion demonstration regions in Europe, like Barcelona, Berlin, Copenhagen, Dublin, and Rome. For this purpose, the individual demonstration regions are linking their IT systems to the marketplace via open standard interfaces. European wide roaming will be made possible in the demo regions via a so-called “clearing house”.

The development of the base system was finalised in August 2012. The first phase of the tests starts now and comprises functionalities for locating charging points and for clearing charging processes. In the second development phase, a second marketplace release will be established as well as services will be added covering reservation of charging points and energy load management.

An open architecture as well as standardised interfaces and business practises (such as identification of charging points and contracts) will ensure that all market participants can develop and commercialise their own services in the marketplace.

Green eMotion is a large-scale European electromobility demonstration project, launched within the European Union’s Green Cars Initiative. It brings together 43 partners from industry, energy sector, electric vehicle manufacturers, municipalities as well as universities and research institutions. The aim is to develop and to demonstrate a commonly accepted user-friendly framework consisting of interoperable and scalable technical solutions in connection with a sustainable business platform. Smart grid developments, innovative ICT solutions, different types of electric vehicles and urban mobility concepts will all be taken into account. The four-year project started in March 2011. It has a total budget of €42m, €24m of which are funded by the European Commission.