Ireland is first to trial a Europe-wide electric vehicle IT Platform

Electric car developments announced at Fully Charged 2012

Speakers and delegates from all over the world have gathered in Dublin to attend Fully Charged 2012, an International electric vehicle summit organised by ESB ecars on behalf of the Green eMotion EU project. Pat Rabbitte TD, Minister for Communications, Energy & Natural Resources opened the conference and announced that Ireland would be the first country to trial an electric vehicle IT platform that will facilitate international roaming and seamless charging across Europe. International payments are settled via your home account much like with mobile phones.

As one of the ten demonstration regions within Green eMotion, Ireland has been selected as the first test region because of its advanced charge point network which already covers 82% of the country’s main towns and cities. This roll-out is based on, and supported by university conducted end-user and vehicle research trials which commenced in 2010. The Green eMotion project is focused on achieving mass market adoption of electric vehicles through the development of standards, policies and interoperable systems so that motorists can easily charge anytime and anywhere in Europe."

Speaking at Fully Charged 2012, Pat O’Doherty, ESB Chief Executive said, "Electric vehicles bring the automotive and electricity worlds together and here today at Fully Charged we have representation from all the major players who are collaborating on the solutions required to build this new industry. As one of the leading countries in the rollout of a smart charge point infrastructure we are particularly pleased to be at the forefront of the development of the electric vehicle IT systems for Europe as well."

Global predictions for electric vehicle volumes estimate that China will become the largest market for electric vehicles/plug-in hybrids by 2020 with volumes of 13 million units. Volumes for Europe and U.S. are estimated at 9.6 and 4.1 million respectively". The International Energy Agency (IEA) has called for electric and plug-in hybrids to reach 50% of global sales by 2040 in their new Energy Technology Perspectives 2012 Report. Maria van der Hoeven, Executive Director of the IEA gave the keynote address and she spoke about the need for battery cost reductions, infrastructure and supporting policies to achieve these targets. She also emphasized the potential future role of electric vehicles as part of a “smart grid” electricity system.

Five Irish companies will showcase electric vehicles products and services that have been trialled in Ireland in conjunction with ESB ecars. Examples include Dublin based, M2C, which has developed a smart home charge point that operates as part of a home energy management system and allows the end user to charge when electricity is at its cheapest or greenest, JTM from Wicklow who have developed one of the first mobile chargers for electric vehicles for use with rescue fleets, and Eveo solutions whose first public charger was recently installed at the Topaz service station in Dublin Port. These and other Irish firms hope to capitalise on the attendance of many multinationals and delegations from U.S., Japan, France, Germany, Turkey, Norway, Spain, Netherlands, Sweden, Italy and Latvia to promote their products and services to the international electric vehicle market.

The “Electric Avenue” in the exhibition area features a range of electric cars from leading car manufacturers. The Volkswagen Golf which is set to enter the Irish market at the end of 2013 is making its debut at the show. Other new electric car models on display include the Volvo C30 and the Renault “Twizy". There are more than 260 delegates attending Fully Charged 2012 from 19 countries. Fully Charged 2012 is a satellite event of ESOF 2012 which opens on the evening of 11th July.

*Source: Roland Berger Strategy Consultants
Note for editors:

About ESB ecars
ESB ecars is responsible for the roll out of electric vehicle infrastructure in Ireland and the supporting IT/communications systems. A comprehensive network of charge points is being developed, with open systems and platforms, so they are accessible to all electricity supply companies, and all types of electric cars. The primary activities of ESB and its subsidiaries are the ownership and/or operation of electricity distribution and transmission networks in Ireland and Northern Ireland and the generation and supply of electricity in Ireland and internationally.

For more information visit www.esb.ie/ecars, www.facebook.com/ESBecars

Green eMotion Interoperability Europe-wide Electric Vehicle IT Platform
Within the Green eMotion (GeM) project there are 10 electromobility demonstration regions operating across Europe. Even though all of these may use different business models and IT systems a key objective of the project is to ensure that an electric vehicle driver will be able to travel throughout Europe and not have to worry about these differences. This is done by the creation of a “Market Place or Clearing House”. This is essentially an Electric Vehicle IT Platform that will support international roaming. Payments will take place on your home country account much like with mobile phones. The main feature of this is that there is an agreed format by which data is collected and exchanged. The GeM project is doing this and the result will be a fully open, transparent set of protocols that will be freely available to everyone, and not just the partners in the project.

For the past 15 months there has been a lot of work done to develop the data and protocols and it is now almost ready for field testing. Because of the advanced stage of the Irish project the initial field trial will be done here whereby drivers whose electricity supplier is German or Italian will be able to use Irish charge points and pay back at home for it.