



Apr 24, 2014 00:01 BST

RAC launches first mobile electric vehicle charging unit

The RAC – Britain’s most experienced breakdown provider – is launching its first mobile electric charging system at GreenFleet Scotland to cater for the UK’s expanding electric vehicle (EV) market which now consists of more than 9,000 vehicles*.

A standard RAC diesel VW Transporter van has been fully equipped with an EVRESCUE, totally portable fast charging unit which can deliver around 15 miles of range to a stricken electric vehicle in less than half an hour. Equivalent to a ‘gallon of electricity’, the RAC believes this should be

sufficient to get the driver safely on their way home or to the nearest charging point.

The unique 5kW unit, which is capable of completely recharging an electric vehicle's battery in less than four hours, is going into service in the Birmingham area as the city has a well-established progressive EV record as a result of its charging infrastructure.

UK electric car sales are currently enjoying strong growth with 265% year-on-year growth in pure electric vehicles sales in the first three months of 2014**. The launch late last year of the BMW i3 range-extended supermini electric, which has been dubbed as the world's first premium car designed from the ground up as an electric car, has no doubt helped these figures.

While the Government has not set a target for electric vehicles the Committee on Climate Change has recommended aiming for 1.7m EVs as a step towards achieving the UK's long-term emissions reduction targets.

For company fleet operators electric vehicles offer many benefits, depending on their usage requirements, as they are cheaper to run than conventional vehicles, have wider tax breaks, and can be purchased with sizeable Government grants.

RAC spokesman Tim Hartles said: "As the electric vehicle market develops, the need for a mobile transportable energy source is becoming more important, not only to reduce 'range anxiety', but also to provide temporary cost-effective power for electric cars. Whether it's at the side of a road in an emergency, or in a car showroom, portable power that is flexible, available and mobile is very much in demand so we wanted to invest in the required technology to make sure the RAC was completely ready to meet this need.

"By adding an EVRESCUE unit to a fully-equipped RAC van, a stranded electric vehicle will no longer require recovery after running out of energy as we will simply be able to give the vehicle a quick charge to get it going again. As well as the obvious cost savings this new solution brings, it enables fleets and businesses to make EV choices when purchasing.

"If this pilot scheme is successful we will look to add EVRESCUE charging systems to more patrol vehicles in busy urban areas just as we have done

with our 10 new mobile tyre-fitting vans which have been introduced to cope with the ever-increasing 'puncture no spare' issue.

"To that end we are in discussions with other progressive local authorities around the UK – including Scotland – to extend the reach of the trial."

The UK has more than 5,000 public car charging points – most of which take more than four hours to charge a battery. Only 220 of these, however, are fast chargers, which can fully recharge a battery in about 20 minutes.

Notes to Editors

* Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) statistics for pure electric and plug-in hybrids parc

** [SMMT Electric Vehicle registration figures for March and the year-to-date](#)

About the RAC

With more than eight million members, the RAC is one of the UK's most progressive motoring organisations, providing services for both private and business motorists. Whether it's roadside assistance, insurance, buying a used car, vehicle inspections and checks, legal services or up-to-the-minute traffic and travel information – the RAC offers a solution for all motoring needs. The RAC is committed to making motoring easier, safer, more affordable and more enjoyable for drivers and road users.

The RAC is the motorist's champion and campaigns to support the interests of its members and UK motorists at a national level, including advancing levels of road safety, supporting the needs of young drivers and voicing concerns about the increasing cost of motoring. The RAC's annual [Report on Motoring](#) – first published in 1989 – provides a clear insight into the concerns and issues facing today's motorists.

For the very latest news on UK fuel prices, check [RAC Fuel Watch](#) or follow [#racfuelwatch on Twitter](#). This is a comprehensive guide to the latest UK unleaded petrol and diesel prices – both at the wholesale level and at the pump. RAC Fuel Watch analyses how prices changed through the previous month and compares the most recent prices with those from three, six and 12

months before.

Key facts:

- RAC patrols fix four out of five vehicles at the roadside and on average within 30 minutes
- RAC vans carry more than 500 parts and tools to get members' vehicles going again
- 92% of members would recommend RAC Rescue to their friends and family

Contacts



RAC Press Office

Press Contact

press.office@rac.co.uk

Emails monitored during normal office hours. For breakdown queries, call 0330 159 0740

ISDN number on request