



Image: RAC

May 23, 2022 00:01 BST

RAC begins rolling out faster emergency EV chargers to patrol vans

Three years after launching the breakdown industry’s first engine-powered emergency charger for electric cars the RAC has begun rolling out a faster version so that its patrols can get electric car drivers moving again even more quickly.

The modern-day equivalent of a fuel can for electric cars, [RAC EV Boost](#) has been updated from 3.5kW to 5kW to increase the speed of charge for members who either run out of charge or encounter faulty charge points. The

new charger is capable of adding around 10 miles of range in around 30 minutes or less.

Last May the RAC further underlined its position as the number-one for EV breakdown cover by [signing an exclusivity agreement](#) with the specialist engineering company that designed and developed the lightweight and compact RAC EV Boost charger which weighs just 35kg. Shrewsbury-based [Original ADS](#) and the RAC have since won a host of awards for the charger including Best Use of Technology at the Motor Transport Awards 2021 and Best Product Development Innovation in the UK Business and Innovation Awards 2022.

The RAC is now on track to have 200 RAC vans – around a fifth of its patrol fleet – fitted with EV Boost chargers by the end of the year with as many as 130 of those being the new faster 5kW units. Importantly, the unit avoids the need for breakdown vans having to carry heavy and bulky batteries that have to be re-charged after every use, or having to put the out-of-charge vehicle on to a flatbed recovery truck in order to take it a short distance to a charge point.

Now having succeeded in producing the new 5kW RAC EV Boost unit work is underway on perfecting a 7.5kW charger which the RAC and Original ADS believe will offer the best possible balance of cost, efficiency and charging time at the roadside.

RAC chief operations director Paul Coulton said:

“Having been the first breakdown company to come up with a practical and efficient solution to giving an emergency charge to a flat EV and being the only roadside assistance company in the UK that can use this pioneering British-designed technology, we’re really excited to be speeding up the charger to 5kW so we can save members even more time. And we aren’t stopping there as a 7.5kW version is our next target.

“While we’ve put [the UK’s first electric breakdown van into service in the form of a Renault Zoe](#), there isn’t currently an electric van on the market that can do everything that a diesel-powered one can in terms of towing broken-down vehicles and carrying 500 tools and parts. So, even though we’re using a diesel van to recharge an electric car, we’re confident it’s faster, more efficient and better for the planet than having to send a big flatbed recovery

vehicle or a van full of batteries.

“This is also why our emergency mobile chargers had to be compact. At the size of a shoe box and weighing just 35kg, RAC EV Boost only takes up a small amount of space in a standard orange breakdown van.

“And, if a member breaks down in an EV for another reason our patrols have more unique equipment in their vans to help. If they can’t fix the fault there and then, they can tow it themselves with our All-Wheels-Up rapid recovery system meaning there’s no need to wait for a tow truck. It’s like having a flatbed in the back of an RAC van.

“These two breakthrough [RAC innovations](#) mean we’re perfectly placed to help any EV driver, whatever problem they might encounter on the road or at home. This should give drivers the confidence to make the switch to electric.

The press office email address is press.enquiries@rac.co.uk and media centre is at media.rac.co.uk. **Please note:** the press office is unable to help with individual customer enquiries - please visit the [RAC contacts page](#) to find the right contact.

About the RAC

The RAC, an iconic UK brand, provides complete peace of mind to 13 million UK private and business drivers, whatever their motoring needs. As well as its premium nationwide breakdown assistance service – with an expert branded patrol workforce attending more than two million breakdowns every year – it offers a wide range of market-leading products across insurance, legal services, vehicle inspections and service, maintenance and repair. The RAC is also at the forefront in helping drivers make the switch to electric vehicles and leads in the development of new solutions for businesses and OEMs, partnering with the best in the motoring and mobility space.

Visit the [RAC website](#).

Contacts



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