



RACE, REE and IDAE analyse the demands, needs and doubts of users on the introduction of the electric vehicle

90% of Spaniards consider that information on the electrical vehicle is scarce, confusing or non-existent

- The user profile is that of a car or motorcycle owner living at least 20 km from the city centre, owner of a private garage, who uses the vehicle for urban use.
- Battery autonomy, recharging stations and price are the issues that most worry users.
- 40% declare that they are not at all willing to pay more for an electric vehicle and 85% demand public subsidies.
- 87% consider the introduction of the electric vehicle positive as a new alternative means of transport.

Madrid, 15 April 2010. The Real Automóvil Club de España (RACE) has today presented the results of a survey on Spanish drivers to find out the demands, needs and doubts they have regarding the government's decision to promote and encourage the purchase and use of electric vehicles.

As the most outstanding figure, 90% of Spaniards consider that information on the specifications and particularities of electric vehicle is scarce, confusing or non-existent at the present time. Despite this, 87% of those taking the survey declared that they were in favour of promoting electric vehicles.

The survey has also tried to define the target public of this means of transport. The electric vehicle is of particular interest for car and motorcycle users who live at least 20 km from the city centre (90%), have a private garage for parking their vehicle (77%) and are looking to satisfy their requirements for travelling around the urban environment (83%).

With regard to the matters that most worry Spanish drivers as far as electric vehicles are concerned, 29% consider the shortage of recharging stations as the

main disadvantage, followed by battery autonomy (25%) and purchase price (19%). In addition, three out of every four people who took the survey consider that the key factors for the success of the electric car include improving battery autonomy and the number of recharging stations.

As far as the cost is concerned, 40% disagree completely with having to pay more for an electric vehicle with features that are similar to those of a conventional vehicle. Accordingly, 85% of those who took the survey demand public subsidies. As far as the type of subsidies is concerned, 50% require direct economic subsidies for purchasing a vehicle and for installing recharging stations.

With regard to the preferences when recharging the electric vehicle, eight out of every ten people who took the survey preferred overnight recharging. In addition, for the promotion of electric vehicles, 71% of those who took the survey demand special tariffs, especially during said hours, when the demand for electricity falls.

Furthermore, users have great expectations for the electric car and understand its introduction as a positive move; however, there is a certain amount of scepticism regarding its rapid deployment. Indeed, 44% of those who took the survey consider the target of 250,000 vehicles on the road by the year 2014 unrealistic.

RACE has begun a line of work which, in the future, will contribute to the promotion of the electric vehicle through the development of studies and campaigns that focus on improving the level of user awareness, preparing all the services offered by the club, especially the assistance network and employee-training, to help users of this type of vehicle.

At the service of electricity demand management

In order to operate the electricity system provided by Red Eléctrica, the initiative for developing electric mobility is a great opportunity for the efficient management of the demand for and integration of renewable energies.

As a new consumer of electricity, especially at night, the electric vehicle will change the daily consumption of energy by reducing the large differences between the peak and off-peak hours in daily consumption; this will increase the efficiency of the electricity system as a whole by making better use of its generation and transport resources.

In the long term, the electric car may be used as a reversible storage system. The vehicle batteries will be recharged at night and, during the day, when demand is high, they will be able to load electricity up to the system.

Night-time recharging will also favour the integration of wind power, whose generation increases mainly at night, reducing the risk of system imbalances and possible power-cuts.

Greater energy efficiency of electric motors

For the IDAE, the electric vehicle is an excellent option for improving the efficiency of the national energy system and, in particular, the transport sector. Owing to the greater energy efficiency of electric traction motors and the complete energy cycle (including the generation of electricity, transport, transformation and recharging), the electric vehicle represents an improvement to efficiency (well-to-wheel) estimated at 50% in terms of today's conventional vehicles.

The combination of a greater use of the electric vehicle with a more efficient generation mix and lower greenhouse gas emissions points to the final emissions corresponding to this type of vehicles being more than 70–80% lower than the average emissions of the vehicles on today's market. This has the benefit of helping Spain to achieve the environmental targets it has assumed.

Consequently, the promotion of the electric vehicle in Spain is a great option for consolidating the fundamental pillars of the Spanish energy policy to guarantee the energy supply (reduction of dependence on oil-based products), improve competitiveness (with intelligent energy demand management) and respect for the environment (reduction of the environmental impacts from the use of energy).

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