

Lapp Group teams up with parcel courier DPD to present pilot concept for electrically driven delivery

Stuttgart, June 30, 2013

The Stuttgart headquarters of the Lapp Group, one of the leading manufacturers and system providers of connection technology, is to become a permanent base for an electric vehicle operated by the international parcel courier DPD. The Lapp Group is therefore making it possible to deliver packages to the city districts of Vaihingen, Buesnau and Kaltental free of emissions. The fully electrically driven delivery vehicle, sponsored by the "Electric Mobility Showcase" (Schaufenster Elektromobilität) initiative of the German government, allows CO2-neutral delivery, thanks to the company's own solar unit. In addition, a new logistics plan ensures permanent reduction in traffic, thus sinking CO2 emissions in package delivery.

"Thanks to the cooperation with our service provider DPD, we can demonstrate completely new uses for electric mobility," says Joself Holz, Chief Operations Officer of Lapp Group, at the end of the three-month test period. "We are very happy that our joint model came through the test well and can now be rolled out."

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Delivery concept expands usages for electric mobility

Gerd Seber, DPD's Sustainable Development Manager responsible for sustainability strategy, explains: "The limited range of electric vehicles is a big hurdle for courier firms. Thanks to the Lapp Group, we can now serve residential areas which until now were too far away from our branch in Ludwigsburg (just north of Stuttgart). With this kind of cooperation, we can multiply the possible areas where electric vehicles can operate."

This point is underlined by Franz Loogen, President of the state agency e-mobil BW: "Delivery in urban areas is an ideal application for electric mobility. In the flagship project Urban Business Logistics Transport, the partners make it clear how useful and relevant electric mobility can be in everyday life." The State Agency for Electric Mobility and Fuel Cell Technology e-mobil BW GmbH (Landesagentur für Elektromobilität und Brennstoffzellentechnologie e-mobil BW GmbH) coordinates the Electric Mobility Showcase initiative LivingLab BWe mobil in the Stuttgart/Karlsruhe region. This initiative by the German government is active in four regions across the country. DPD is one of over 100 project partners in Baden-Wuerttemberg and is testing a total of eight Vito E-cells in its operations in the Stuttgart region.

Extra CO2 savings thanks to intelligent transport planning

As the electric vehicle used by DPD, a Vito E-Cell from Mercedes-Benz, can operate from the Lapp Group HQ in Stuttgart-Vaihingen, emissions-free delivery to the districts of Vaihigen, Buesnau and Kaltental is now possible. The Vito E-Cell masters the energy-intensive height differences on the delivery rounds with its energy-optimised route planning. The vehicle's

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starting point at Lapp HQ is at a higher position, allowing the vehicle to use the gradient when it is fully loaded. The delivery route ends in Kaltental in the valley below, meaning that the bulk of the inclines can be done without having to worry about the load.

The packages delivered daily by the Vito E-Cell arrive in Vaihingen in the morning via swap-body trucks from the DPD depot in Ludwigsburg, before being loaded into the E-Cell. In the afternoon, a full truck then goes back to Ludwigsburg, this time filled with packages from the Lapp Group. Before the start of the test run, a standard delivery vehicle was loaded in Ludwigsburg and made its way to the delivery area in Vaihingen. An empty swap-body truck also left from the depot to Lapp Group HQ to pick up the packages for the customer. The new model cuts out the transfer for the delivery vehicle. The new delivery model is therefore much more efficient and saves kilometres on the road, thus making a further reduction to CO₂. The Lapp Group and DPD expect annual CO₂ savings of over eight tonnes. This is about as much CO₂ as a standard VW Golf would emit if it drove around the world along the equator twice.

Data and facts about the Mercedes-Benz Vito E-Cell

The Vito E-Cell from Mercedes-Benz is the world's first transport vehicle to be powered by an electric battery as standard. In 2011, DPD was one of the first companies to begin a four-year test run, sharing its experiences with the manufacturer in the process. With a total permitted weight of 3,050 kilograms, the Vito E-Cell offers 900 kilograms of carrying capacity. This transport performance is made possible by two things: a comparatively compact and therefore light lithium-ion battery with a high energy density

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when compared to standard batteries, together with an electric motor that is deliberately integrated into the shell construction. The Vito E-Cell has a range of around 130 kilometres. Its top speed of 80 km/h is suitable for transport journeys both in the city and in short journeys to nearby areas.

About the Lapp Group:

Headquartered in Stuttgart, Germany, Germany, the Lapp Group is a leading supplier of integrated solutions and branded products in the field of cable and connection technology. The Lapp Group has remained in continuous family ownership since it was founded in 1959. In the 2012/13 business year, it generated a consolidated turnover of 830 million euros. Lapp currently employs approximately 3,200 people across the world, has 18 production sites and over 40 sales companies. It also works in cooperation with around 100 foreign representatives.

Lapp Group North America:

As part of the worldwide Lapp Group, Lapp Group NA offers a complete one-stop automation solution for cable and connector needs. Lapp has the broadest range of products, including OLFLEX®, UNITRONIC®, and SILFLEX® flexible and continuous-flex cables, SILVYN® cable track and accessories, EPIC® rectangular, circular, and Pin & Sleeve Connectors, SKINTOP® strain relief cable glands, FLEXIMARK® Cable Marking Systems, remote access ports, and custom harness assemblies. From its state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities in Florham Park, NJ, Lapp Cable Works manufactures custom cables for unique applications.

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