

E-MOBILITY ITALY: THE FIRST ELECTRIC SMART CAR GOES TO THE MAYOR OF ROME, GIANNI ALEMANNI

The delivery of the "smart electric drive" to the Mayor marks the beginning of the electric mobility era in Rome.

Rome, May 12th 2010 – Today, Bram Schot, Chairman and CEO of Mercedes Benz, has handed over to the Mayor of Rome the first of the 100 smart electric drives which are part of the e-mobility Italy project organised by smart and Enel. E-mobility Italy is the first and most significant joint project for the development of electric mobility worldwide.

Today is an important day for the automotive sector and for the future of mobility. It is no coincidence that the Capital and its authorities were the first to believe in the e-mobility Italy project, by signing a memorandum of understanding with Enel to set up an "intelligent" network of 150 recharging points around the city. Around 100 of these points will be in public places, available to all residents, while the other 50 will be for private use at the homes of Roman citizens and businesses who have applied to drive the first electric smart cars.

The smart fortwo electric drive, with its 'zero-emission' electric engine, is equipped with the innovative 17kWh lithium-ion battery which provides enough power to travel a distance of 135 km.

Electric mobility is a new challenge and a sector with enormous potential as far as the environment is concerned: replacing a traditional vehicle with an electric one reduces CO2 emissions by 46%. Electric cars also boast substantial advantages in terms of energy efficiency: travelling the same distance in an electric car requires around 40% less primary energy than an equivalent petrol vehicle.

