



EDF Electric Transportation

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Electric Mobility front and center at the Equip Auto Show



Inaugurated by French Industry Minister Christian Estrosi, the **Equip Auto international automobile equipment exhibition** welcomed industry players and professionals October 12th through the 18th at the Parc des Exposition Paris-Nord.

The 10th edition of Equip Auto Forum selected **electric mobility as its theme**, providing an opportunity for manufacturers and public policy makers to underscore the significance of electric mobility, the **strategic challenges to the French auto industry, and the need to buttress the industrial supply chain in an area where France holds a significant international advantage in experience and reputation** – more specifically, in batteries, electronics, and electric motorization.

The Electro-mobility Forum featured two particularly fruitful roundtable discussions:

- **“Electric Mobility: Transition, or Technology Breakthrough”**

Discussion of this topic provided Jean-Louis Legrand, Interministerial Coordinator for Carbon-free Vehicles, an opportunity to restate government commitments towards the development of electric vehicle markets, particularly those covering the deployment of recharging terminals; and for Senator Louis Nègre to reiterate the **environmental advantages of the electric vehicle**, specifically the reduction in localized air pollution – of genuine risk to public health (30,000 premature deaths a year, according to the Senator).

Bearing in mind that 87% of daily car use concerns less than 60 km distance, automakers participating in the debate focused on the **suitability of the electric vehicle to urban and greater urban travel**, with hybrid or rechargeable hybrid cars answering demands for lengthier trips.

Addressing cost issues, **auto manufacturers indicated that they were readying electric vehicles for 2011 showrooms at a price point (not including batteries or clean-vehicle purchase rebates) – as batteries will be leased – equivalent to that of gas-powered vehicles of the same class.**

- **“Batteries and management of on-board energy: the different technologies and recharging solutions”**

Roundtable participants were in agreement on the **future predominance of the lithium battery**, while still emphasizing the **diversity of technical solutions necessary to the optimization of battery life, use (rapid-charging or not, recharging frequency), and price.**



The test track was a success (Photo DR)



d'Electruckcity truck (Photo DR)

For the first time, Equip Auto featured an **exhibition space dedicated to electric mobility** equipped with a **test track** – a popular success, thanks to the diversity of the products on display and the curiosity elicited by the electric-powered motors. Consequently, observation of the evolution of diverse vehicles (two-wheeled, private or utilitarian, light or heavy trucks), or testing of these same as a passenger or driver was possible: the electric Berlingo from Citroën “electrified” by Venturi; the iOn from Peugeot built on a Mitsubishi I-MiEV chassis; the Matra-Gem e4, the Sweet’elec electric scooter; the Greenpower MicroBus from Gruau; the original Smera from Lumeneo; or electrically assisted bicycles and a truck imported by Electruckcity.

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