Volkswagen Group and bp launch strategic partnership to rapidly rollout EV fast charging in Europe

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Volkswagen's innovative Flexpole 150kW charging units, each of which feature two charge points, have an integrated battery storage system, overcoming one of the biggest obstacles to the rapid roll-out of fast charging infrastructure in Europe today – the need for high-powered grid connections. The Flexpole units can be directly connected to a low voltage gridwhich removes the requirement for a dedicated substation and costly construction work, significantly reducing installation times while still providing fast charging speeds of up to 150kW, enough to deliver up to 160km of driving in as little as 10 minutes, depending on the model of electric vehicle.

The first phase of the roll-out will see up to an additional 4,000 charge points at bp's Aral retail sites in Germany and bp retail sites in the UK over the next 24 months. By end 2024, up to 8,000 charge points could be available across Germany, the UK and other European countries. bp is rapidly expanding its EV charging network, including at its extensive and conveniently located network of retail sites. EV drivers will be able to charge in safe, well-lit stations with access to additional services such as food and drink for their journeys, as well as toilets.

Herbert Diess, Volkswagen's chief executive officer, said: "Volkswagen has been pioneering the transformation to e-mobility across Europe. Today we have the broadest offer of electric cars in the market and sold more EVs in the region than any other carmaker last year. Investing in everything from software, to batteries and charging is part of our strategy to make individual mobility safer, more convenient and fully climate-neutral. The decarbonization of Europe's economy requires close collaboration across borders and sectors. We're pleased to team up with bp to accelerate the rollout of the fast-charging network across Europe."

Bernard Looney, bp's chief executive officer, said: "EV charging is one of the key engines driving bp's transformation to an integrated energy company. That's why we're so excited by our partnership with Volkswagen. When you bring together one of the world's leading car makers and one of the world's leading energy companies - the opportunity

is huge. This is a significant step-forward on our journey to accelerate the electrification of transport in Europe."

The charger locations will be integrated into the navigation and other in-car apps of Volkswagen, Seat and ŠKODA vehicles as well as into Volkswagen's charging application, Elli, making it easier for drivers to find available charging points. Any EV driver will be able to use the new chargers as part of the bp pulse and Aral pulse network enabling all EV drivers to sign up and collect rewards from bp/Aral loyalty programs.

Thomas Schmall, Member of the Board of Management of Volkswagen Group and CEO of Volkswagen Group Components said: "As we promised at our Power Day, we are driving the expansion of charging infrastructure in Europe at high speed. Together with bp, we will bring thousands of fast-charging stations to life within a very short time. Rapid expansion of the charging network is crucial now. To make that happen, our pioneering flexible, fast chargers offer a perfect solution, since the time and costs required for installation are minimal."

"bp has served customers on-the-go for decades in Europe and across the world," said Emma Delaney, bp's executive vice president customers & products. "With the transition to electric vehicles well underway in Europe, we want to provide fast, reliable charging and convenience to EV drivers on-the-go. We are delighted to announce this partnership with VW. The flexible battery-based chargers will accelerate bp's fast charging network roll-out at our well-located sites in Europe. We are planning up to 4,000 additional charge points in Germany and the UK in the near term - a turbo-boost for our fast charging network in these countries."

Under the terms of their agreement, Volkswagen and bp will also look to pursue further opportunities together to provide future solutions for lower carbon mobility.

1) "Fast charging" includes rapid charging ≥50kW and ultra-fast charging ≥150k

2) Depending on the number of vehicles charging and the level of charge in the battery

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