

Fast charging station network starts to take shape: Site partners for 18 European countries secured

Munich, 27/11/2017 – IONITY, which was founded only a few weeks ago, is taking off quickly. The joint venture of BMW, Daimler, Ford and Volkswagen with Audi and Porsche has formed initial strategic partnerships for the realization of its “High-Power-Charging” (HPC) network for electric vehicles in Europe. By teaming up with Shell, OMV, Tank & Rast and Circle K, IONITY has secured the coverage of more than half of the approximately 400 sites planned between now and the year 2020. Other partnerships are planned.

By establishing the venture company IONITY, the BMW Group, Daimler AG, Ford Motor Company and the Volkswagen Group with Audi and Porsche have paved the way for the development of the most high-powered fast charging network for electric vehicles in Europe. With the aim of building approximately 400 HPC stations by 2020, the young company is taking the industry by force.

IONITY has formed strategic partnerships with Shell, Tank & Rast, OMV and Circle K for the realization of its European fast charging network and is thus entering the exploration and realization phase in 18 European countries. By teaming up with the four partner companies, more than 50 percent of the 400 sites planned between now and the year 2020 have already been covered. The installation of HPC charging stations directly on the major thoroughfares will make electromobility significantly more convenient and the charging capacity of up to 350 kW is expected to reduce the waiting time for customers to a minimum.

“The agreements with these prestigious partners constitute an important initial milestone in our relatively short company history. So in the future, we will be able to offer a large number of fast charging stations at attractive sites along major roads in Europe,” says Marcus Groll, COO of IONITY.

By joining forces with Shell, IONITY will be able to install its fast charging infrastructure at sites throughout ten European countries: Belgium, France, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, the Czech Republic and Hungary. This collaboration will reinforce the business strategy pursued by both companies to offer more and more drivers of electric vehicles a fast, reliable charging service at attractive sites. “Customers want to be able to travel long distances in electric vehicles – with the knowledge that

there is a reliable, convenient means of charging their vehicles,” says István Kapitány, Shell Executive Vice President of Retail.

The site partner in Germany is Autobahn Tank & Rast, which operates around 360 petrol stations and 400 service stations, including approximately 50 hotels, within the German motorway network. “Germany is an important transit country in the European transport system. Our collaboration with IONITY will promote unlimited, cross-border e-mobility along Europe’s main roads. This means we will be facilitating the breakthrough of electromobility in Germany and beyond. By installing fast charging stations with a 350 kW charging capacity in the Tank & Rast service network, we are taking the next step and gearing our service to the future needs of our customers,” says Jörg Hofmeister, Head of Electromobility at Tank & Rast.

IONITY is working with the Austrian company OMV on the roll-out of a fast charging infrastructure in Austria, Slovenia, the Czech Republic and Hungary. Manfred Leitner, Director of Downstream Operations at OMV: “In cooperation with the automobile industry, we are working on a fast-growing field of technology. We are intensifying our efforts to offer our customers an additional alternative mobility service, thereby moving one step closer to a sustainable energy future.”

By teaming up with Circle K in Denmark, Estonia, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden, IONITY will be able to forge ahead with the construction of its fast charging network in Northern Europe. “We are proud to be working with IONITY on the development of the most high-powered charging network in Europe. Our collaboration substantiates Circle K’s aspiration to shape mobility solutions in our core markets,” says Jacob Schram, Group President of Circle K Europe. The European headquarters of Circle K are situated in Norway. “As the world’s third-largest EV market, Norway is a very exciting market for us. It is regarded as Europe’s model nation in terms of electromobility. Here, our fast charging stations will enable us to make an important contribution to the further market development of electromobility,” says Michael Hajesch, CEO of IONITY.

IONITY uses the European charging standard “Combined Charging System” (CCS) with a charging capacity of up to 350 kW and thereby will provide cross-brand compatibility with most present-day and future electric vehicles. The charging stations are equipped with the latest e-charging technology and will have six charging points on average. They will be easily accessible for the public situated at a distance of approximately 120 km from each other. Together with its partners, IONITY is already working on the realization of the first 20 sites in more than ten countries.

Working together with the experienced site partners Shell, Tank & Rast, OMV and Circle K is an important success on the road to establishing a European network of fast charging stations by 2020. Thus, the way for electromobility to gain mass appeal even over long distances will be paved. Further partnerships aimed at completing the IONITY European fast charging network are already in the pipeline.

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About IONITY

IONITY is headquartered in Munich and was founded in 2017; it is a joint venture of the BMW Group, Daimler AG, Ford Motor Company and the Volkswagen Group with Audi and Porsche. The goal of the joint venture is to build an extensive and reliable High-Power-Charging network (HPC) for electric vehicles in Europe to secure comfortable long-distance travel. IONITY has attractive national and international locations through its strong cooperation partners. IONITY is an internationally registered trademark. www.ionity.eu

For further information please contact:

IONITY GmbH
Hakan Günay
Public Relations
Tel.: +49 89 614 657 10
Email: press@ionity.eu

About Shell International

Shell is a global group of energy and petrochemical companies with more than 43,000 retail sites in close to 80 countries. That makes Shell the world's largest fuels retailer with 500,000 dedicated Service Champions serving 30 million daily customers on Shell branded forecourts around the world. Shell uses advanced technologies and take an innovative approach to help build a sustainable energy future. www.shell.com

For further information please contact:

Shell International
Tasha Obank
Media Relations
Tel.: +44 20 7934 5550
Email: tasha.obank@shell.com

About Tank & Rast

Autobahn Tank & Rast is the leading provider of food service, retail goods, hotel-accommodations and fuel on German motorways. The company and its tenants operate some 360 filling stations and 400 restaurants (including 50 hotels). Approximately 500 million travelers visit Tank & Rast service areas every year. Serways is the service mark of Tank & Rast, which stands for improved customer focus and once more increased service quality. Some 210 service areas are branded as Serways, in addition there are eight Hotels under the brand of Serways.

www.tank.rast.de | www.serways.de | www.sanifair.de

For further information please contact:
Autobahn Tank & Rast Gruppe GmbH & Co. KG
Andreas Rehm
Leiter Corporate Communications & Public Affairs
Tel.: +49 (0) 2 28 9 22-2770
Fax: +49 (0) 2 28 9 22-4230
Email: andreas.rehm@tank.rast.de

About OMV Aktiengesellschaft

OMV is producing and marketing oil & gas, innovative energy and high-end petrochemical solutions – in a responsible way. With Group sales of EUR 19 bn and a workforce of around 22,500 employees in 2016, OMV Aktiengesellschaft is one of Austria's largest listed industrial companies. In Upstream, OMV has a strong base in Romania and Austria and a balanced international portfolio. 2016 daily production stood at approximately 311,000 boe/d. In Downstream, OMV has an annual refining capacity of 17.8 mn tonnes and more than 2,000 filling stations in ten countries as of June 2017. OMV operates a gas pipeline network in Austria and gas storage facilities in Austria and Germany. In 2016, gas sales volumes amounted to 109 TWh.

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For further information, please contact:
OMV Public Relations
Robert Lechner
Tel.: +43 1 40440 21357
Email: public.relations@omv.com

OMV Investor Relations
Florian Greger
Tel.: +43 1 40440 21600
Email: investor.relations@omv.com

About Circle K

Circle K AS is a wholly owned subsidiary of Alimentation Couche-Tard Inc. In Europe, Couche-Tard operates 2,754 stores, comprising a broad retail network across nine countries. Including employees at its branded franchise stations, about 25,000 people work in its retail network, terminals and service offices across Europe.
<http://corpo.couche-tard.com>

For further information, please contact:

Circle K
Media Relations Europe
Pål Heldaas
Senior Director Communications - Europe Communications
Tel: +47 970 79 763
E-Mail: pal.heldaas@circlekeurope.com