

The future of mobility: Solar energy and the electric car

- The Mitsubishi i-MiEV is coming to Berlin
- Presentation at the solar module manufacturer SOLON
- German version available in the coming year

Berlin, September 8, 2009 - One of the largest European solar module manufacturers, the company SOLON SE, is the host for the new Mitsubishi i-MiEV (Mitsubishi innovative Electric Vehicle) in Berlin. The Mitsubishi i-MiEV is the first mass-produced electric car in the world. It is already being sold on the Japanese market since July 2009. A left-hand drive version will be available in Germany from fall 2010.

"The event takes place at SOLON SE because the fusion of electric automobiles and renewable energies is the future of mobility," says thrilled Mitsubishi Motors Germany CEO Martin van Vugt. The solar module manufacturer employs around 900 people in Germany, Austria, Italy, Switzerland and the USA. The company's headquarters in Berlin is an energy-efficient new building with one of the largest building-integrated solar energy systems in Germany. SOLON's future-oriented thinking also manifests itself in the fact that the company has its own solar station for recharging employees' solar scooters.

"In order to stop global warming, new concepts in the field of climate-friendly mobility are necessary. SOLON connects electric mobility on land, on the water, and on the track with solar power, which can be produced where it is needed," said Dr. Lars Podlowski, CTO of SOLON SE. "The Mitsubishi i-MiEV is the focal point of the realization of Vision 2020, the environmental and sustainability strategy of Mitsubishi Motors," said the German CEO of Mitsubishi, van Vugt. By the year 2020, the Japanese company wants to increase the share of electric vehicles in the overall production to 20 percent. The CO₂ emissions of the entire fleet should be 50 percent below the 2005 level by this time. The 3.4m four-seater is powered only by a 47kW/64HP electric motor in the rear. The battery unit is located in the floor of the vehicle, protected by a strong frame. Therefore, the space in the passenger room and the trunk is not influenced. Moreover, the low center of gravity of the vehicle leads to excellent driving characteristics and perfect handling.

With a fully charged battery, the only 1,100kg Mitsubishi i-MiEV has a range of 144km (EU cycle) and reaches a maximum speed of 130km/h. The battery can be recharged in seven hours through any conventional power outlet, a quick recharge at a special quick charging station takes about half an hour.

If combined with power from renewable energy sources, the i-MiEV is almost CO₂ neutral, and thereby makes a valuable contribution to protecting our climate.

Next to the three prototypes of the Mitsubishi i-MiEV, two other energy-saving models by the Japanese manufacturer will be shown: the Colt ClearTec, with an integrated 'Auto Stop&Go' system, which switches off the engine when the vehicle is standing still - e.g. in front of a traffic light - and automatically restarts it, as well as a Colt with an environment-friendly LPG engine.

MITSUBISHI MOTORS DEUTSCHLAND GmbH

Helmut Bauer

Phone: +49 (0)6190 / 9260 - 370

Fax: +49 (0)6190 / 9260 - 380

Email: presse@mitsubishi-motors.de

SOLON SE

Sylvia Ratzlaff

Public Relations

Phone: +49 (0)30 / 818 79 - 9310

Fax: +49 (0)30 / 818 79 - 9300

Email: sylvia.ratzlaff@solon.com