

Press Release (for supplements on the 2008 Geneva Motor Show)

Natural Gas Premieres at the 2008 Geneva Motor Show

The number of gas-powered vehicles in Switzerland rose last year by 2500 to around 5800 and there are approximately 100 filling stations offering natural gas where they can fill up. At the Geneva Motor Show (March 6 to 16, 2008), the Swiss Natural Gas Association will be at its usual location in Hall 5, showing off a selection of the latest gas-powered vehicles. The Mercedes Benz B 170 NGT, the Chevrolet Captiva and the Ford Mondeo will be celebrating their Swiss premiere. A particular attraction will be the world premiere of the PGO Cévennes Roadster Turbo-CNG with its 150 hp turbocharged engine. Natural gas and biogas are becoming increasingly popular forms of fuel and, according to the latest EMPA study, continue to produce the lowest emissions, despite technical improvements to vehicles with liquid fuels.

gasmobil ag, the center of competence operated by the Swiss Natural Gas Association to promote mobility with natural gas and biogas, will once again have its own stand at the 78th International Motor Show in Geneva, exhibiting in association with car importers and vehicle manufacturers. The Motor Show will include a cross-section of the ever-growing range of environmentally friendly natural gas vehicles. They compare favorably with their liquid fuel-powered counterparts in terms of comfort and safety. There will be experts on hand to answer all your questions about the two alternative forms of fuel, as well as about current vehicles.

Three Swiss natural gas premieres

The selection of models on show at the gasmobil stand ranges from the lowest-priced gas-powered car to medium-class cars and vans, as well as the exclusive roadster. Mercedes will have its first gas-powered compact model, the B 170 NGT, on show. The 116 hp/85kW-powered version of the B-class NGT, which is due for market-release in June 2008, will be the company's second car to run on natural gas following the successful E200 NGT and it will offer the same advantages as the luxury saloon. Its CO₂ emissions of 135 grams per kilometer are about 25% lower than those of a comparable petrol-engine car. The Chevrolet Captiva is the second natural gas and biogas-powered SUV to come onto the Swiss market. The compact 4x4 boasts a 3.2 liter V6 engine and stands out by delivering 200-plus hp coupled with reduced CO₂ emissions. It can cover a distance of almost 300 km on a full tank of gas. It will be on sale as of mid-2008. Another vehicle to make its Swiss premiere is the new Ford Mondeo Turnier 2.0i Greenpower from Ford. It is comfortable to drive with its 145 hp engine, and its elegant yet contemporary design is pleasing on the eye. All models in the Ford range are now available in Switzerland as bivalent vehicles (they run on natural gas or petrol). This means that Ford offers the widest range of natural gas-powered vehicles.

World premiere of the PGO Cévennes Turbo-CNG

The latest pre-series natural gas-powered version of the PGO Cévennes Turbo-CNG, with its optimized 150 hp 1.6-liter turbo engine, is a real treat for those who like exclusives. It has an under-floor gas tank, and the car can do a comfortable 450 km on a single tank. Despite its excellent CO₂ emission value of only 118 grams per kilometer on average, this exceptional vehicle can accelerate from 0-100 km/h in just 6.5 seconds. Once this gas-powered roadster goes into series production, it will cost around 70,000 Swiss francs. The car has been developed by PGO Automobiles in Saint Christol lez Alès (France) and BRA GmbH in Schweinfurt (Germany).

The stand will also host the VW Touran 2.0 Ecofuel and the Fiat Panda 1.2 Natural Power - two gas-powered cars which have already proved their credentials on Swiss roads. In addition, several manufacturers are also set to exhibit gas-powered cars and new environmentally-friendly products on their own stands. The Swiss market now boasts 20 different models of cars and 6 models of vans and minibuses that run on natural gas and biogas.

There are already nearly 6000 gas-powered vehicles on Swiss roads

According to initial projections, the number of gas-powered vehicles registered in Switzerland by the end of 2007 will stand at almost 6000, up virtually 2500 since the end of 2006. The one hundredth filling station offering natural gas or biogas is set to open in just a few weeks. Nationwide, these fuels cost about 30% less than petrol and diesel, on average.

Natural gas is an environmentally friendly fuel which produces lower carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions than petrol and diesel, discharges no soot and fine particles of dust and which has no impact on climate. Natural gas's good environmental values as a fuel are confirmed once again by the EMPA study which came out at the start of November 2007. Emissions from 32 different diesel, petrol and natural gas-powered vehicles were compared on a test stand. Natural gas and biogas continue to be the cleanest fuels available. Biogas from fermentation and sewage-treatment plants is even CO₂-neutral. According to a study conducted by the Federal Office for Energy, the biogas sold at Swiss filling stations comes out on top in terms of bio-fuel eco-balances. Bio really does mean bio in the biogas on sale at filling stations. Gas-powered vehicles can run on either natural gas or biogas and also feature a petrol tank should the need arise to switch for a time.

CNG, compressed natural gas (methane) should not be confused with LPG, liquid petroleum gas (propane/butane). These two fuels and vehicle technologies are not mutually compatible.

Gas-powered vehicles at the Geneva Motor Show

GASMOBIL stand 5242/hall 5

Information on gas-powered vehicles

www.erdgasfahren.ch

Arlesheim, February 6th, 2008




Photos and further information (in German and French)

www.erdgasfahren.ch > News > Presseberichte > Presse Download

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	<p>The aim of gasmobil ag in Arlesheim BL (Switzerland), which was formed as a competence center by the Swiss natural gas industry in November 2002, is to promote the use of natural gas and biogas as a fuel. It offers motorists and natural gas provider's technical support in buying vehicles and building filling stations. This will gradually create the basis for making gas-powered vehicles a more attractive prospect to run and for expanding the range of vehicles available.</p>
	<p>BRA GmbH from Schweinfurt (Germany) has been developing environmentally friendly vehicle concepts since 1995. These Bavarian innovators focus their attention on the economical and simple use of methane (biogas/natural gas) in cars. BRA is one of the leading developers in CNG drive technology and has already won a number of awards. BRA developed and built both the first methane-powered turbo engine for cars and the first car with CNG storage technology with no impact on space and load capacity.</p> <p>BRA GmbH, Rudolf-Diesel-Strasse 7, 97424 Schweinfurt, Germany Press contact: Jochen Goetzelmann, Tel.: +49 69 29 92 46 74 www.cngpower.eu, jochen.goetzelmann@cngpower.eu</p>
	<p>PGO, bringing tradition and modernity together. Turning its back on mass production, the company creates exceptional vehicles which combine a neo-retro style with modernity, for all those for whom driving is a pleasure and possessing a rare and prestigious object a deep-seated desire. The company holds sustainable development dear to its heart. One of the major challenges for PGO Automobiles is in designing tanks for natural gas: allowing for a sufficient capacity to provide 450 km of autonomy while at the same time keeping the car as compact as possible.</p> <p>PGO Automobiles, Z.A. de la pyramide, 30380 Saint Christol lez Alès, France Press Contact: Marie-Hélène Combes, Tel. +33 4 66 605 605 www.pgo.fr, mhcombes@pgo.fr</p>