NEWS

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**Embargoed until 10:00 AM CEST, September 7, 2022**

**Kia Europe and encore | DB partner to create second life energy storage systems from used EV batteries**

* **Kia Europe partnering with corporate start-up encore from Deutsche Bahn, to create second life battery energy storage systems from used EV batteries**
* **Former EV batteries from Kia vehicles dismantled to modular level and reassembled to form scalable battery energy storage systems**
* **First installation at EUREF-Campus in Berlin provides 72kWh energy from Kia Soul batteries**

**Frankfurt | September 6, 2022** – Kia Europe has confirmed plans to re-use former electric vehicle (EV) batteries in ’Second Life’ battery energy storage systems as part of its global strategic focus on sustainability. For this purpose, the mobility brand is partnering with encore, a corporate Start-up from Deutsche Bahn (DB Bahnbau Gruppe), who receives their EV battery packs from across Europe to build and distribute second life battery energy storage systems. The EV battery packs are being dismantled to battery module level and subjected to detailed diagnostic testing, with suitable modules then either used for new battery energy storage systems or recycled depending on their remaining capacity.

To deliver the Europe-wide initiative, Kia Europe has become the first mobility solutions provider to partner with encore | DB. The two companies have just unveiled a prototype Battery Storage facility at EUREF-Campus in Berlin, made entirely from reused Kia Soul EV battery modules.

As a pioneer of e-mobility and leader in sustainabl~~e~~ mobility solutions, Kia has shared its plans to develop Purpose Build Vehicles (PBVs), Autonomous technologies and a number of forward-thinking concepts which will set future trends. Kia develops every model with a ‘cradle to cradle’ approach, with consideration for end-of-life processes and resource regeneration. This has led Kia to seek alternatives to the recycling of used EV batteries in favour of Second Life projects, which extend the useful life of batteries through new applications. encore | DB already operates a battery take-back service across Europe for the creation of Second Life battery energy storage systems facilitated by the comprehensive infrastructure available within the Deutsche Bahn Group. The Europe-wide transport of the batteries and new energy storage units is primarily handled by the logistics subsidiary DB Schenker as well as DB Cargo.

Jason Jeong, President at Kia Europe commented: “With our success in the electrification of Kia models, we also take responsibility for the batteries beyond their lifetime in the car. The pioneering partnership between Kia and encore | DB shows that we regard batteries as a valuable resource in terms of a sustainable circular economy.”

**First prototype project launched**

**EUREF-Campus, Berlin is a symbol of the energy revolution in Germany**

In August, Kia Europe and encore | DB jointly revealed their first battery energy storage system at the EUREF-Campus in Berlin, where it functions as part of the Micro Smart Grid, a power grid in which different energy sources, consumers and storage systems are linked intelligently. The Micro Smart Grid was established and is operated by inno2grid GmbH, a joint venture of DB E.C.O. Group and Schneider Electric. The aim is to reduce reliance on the grid through predictable energy flows and increase the share of renewable energy use across the campus.

"It's more urgent than ever for us to save power," says Berthold Huber, Member of the Management Board of Deutsche Bahn for Infrastructure. "Our new second-life battery energy storage systems offer a solution that is also sustainable. And that makes it an attractive option for any industry." One of the first applications of the unit at EUREF-Campus is for EV charging, and the first vehicle to plug in was a Kia e-Niro.

**The process**

In order to build the battery energy storage system, encore| DB collects, dismantles, analyses and then repurposes or recycles the EV batteries. For the battery energy storage system at the EUREF-Campus, used Kia Soul EV battery packs were collected from Kia dealers and transported to encore | DB’s dismantling partner, DellCon, via Deutsche Bahn’s extensive logistical network to ensure sustainable and safe transport. The packs were then dismantled to modular level for state-of-the-art diagnostic testing to assess battery state of health.

The unit at the at the EUREF-Campus is comprised of 24 battery modules in total arranged over three racks; each module made up of 14 double cells. A novel power conversion system with an integrated battery management system (BMS) specifically developed by STABL Energy compensates for the varying states of health between the battery modules by performing passive or active voltage balancing where needed. The prototype unit will provide 72kWh of usable power to support ‘timeshifting’ – storing solar power for later use – and other applications across inno2grids zeeMobase (zero emission mobility base) at the EUREF-Campus.

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**About Kia Europe**

*Kia Europe is the European sales and manufacturing division of Kia Corporation – a global mobility brand that is creating innovative, pioneering and leading sustainable mobility solutions for consumers, communities and societies around the world. As a Sustainable Mobility Solutions Provider, Kia is spearheading the popularization of electrified and battery electric vehicles and developing a growing range of mobility services, encouraging people around the world to explore the best ways of getting around.*

*Kia Europe, headquartered in Frankfurt, Germany, employs in total over 5,500 employees from 37 nationalities in 39 markets across Europe and the Caucasus. It also oversees European production at the company’s state-of-the-art facility in Zilina, Slovakia.*

*Kia’s innovative products continue to attract great acclaim, notably the EV6 battery electric vehicle becoming the first Korean car to be named European Car of the Year in 2022.*

*Further information can be found here:*  [www.press.kia.com](https://deu01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.press.kia.com%2F&data=05%7C01%7CPGHuerta%40kia-europe.com%7C02ad41a8d23f4c4839fd08da2f631625%7C815142b99d2f4d9283c365e5740e49aa%7C0%7C0%7C637874399860348373%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=r0GDqWEVa%2FMjWrJFPsvCxJ8Jw5xmm8JJYQE24POw6B4%3D&reserved=0)

**About DB Bahnbau Group and encore | DB**

*The DB Bahnbau Gruppe is an infrastructure service provider, partner and consultant operating throughout Germany. With around 3,500 employees and 400 maintenance vehicles, it provides planning, construction and maintenance of infrastructure facilities, in particular railway infrastructure and railway transport services. The DB Bahnbau Gruppe also focuses on recycling and alternative energy systems.*

*encore | DB gives used batteries from electromobility a second life as energy storage units and orchestrates the entire process in close exchange with its partners, from the procurement of the used batteries to the production of the second life battery energy storage systems.*

*The Second Life battery energy storage units are also part of the "Das ist grün…" portfolio. With over 160 green measures, Deutsche Bahn is committed to protecting the climate, nature, resources and noise, as well as to social responsibility.*

<http://www.bahnbaugruppe.com> | [www.Encore.deutschebahn.com](http://www.Encore.deutschebahn.com) | <https://gruen.deutschebahn.com/de>