



Development of a Fleet of Electric Vehicles for Better Place



Electric vehicle Renault Laguna of the FEV Hybrid-Testbench during Final Tests

Better Place, a California company, opened a visitor center for electric mobility in Tel Aviv, Israel in February of this year. The purpose of this visitor center is to showcase all aspects of Better Place's business model to journalists and visitors. This includes battery charging stations, battery swapping stations, as well as a vehicle test track with a fleet of electric vehicles.

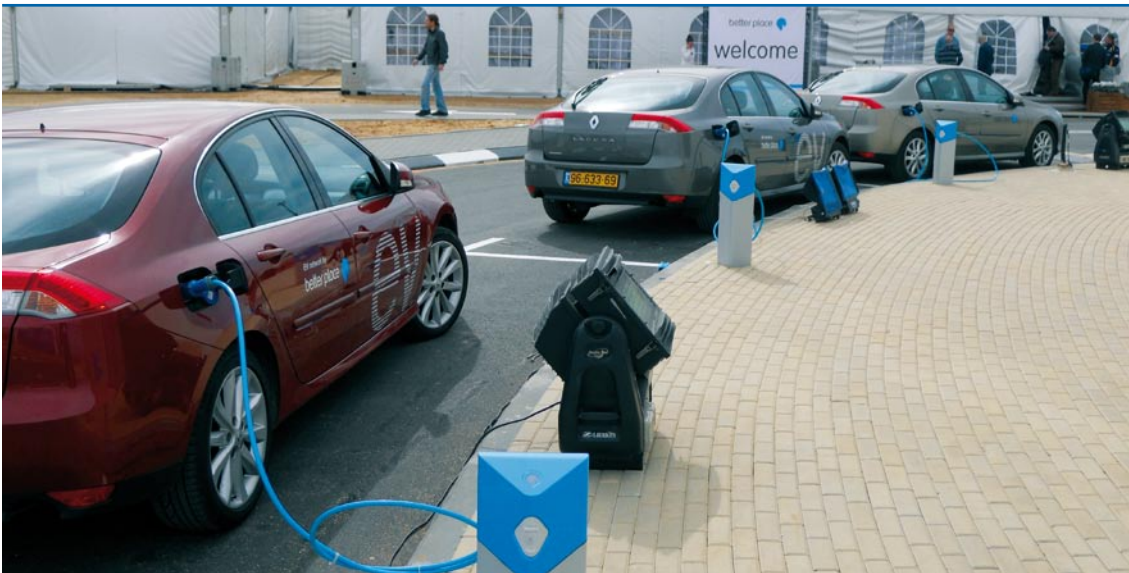
FEV was selected by Better Place to develop a fleet of 11 demonstrator electric vehicles as part of a development project. Production Renault Laguna vehicles were used as the foundation for this project and were converted into pure electric vehicles. Within this turn-key project, FEV performed all of the integration tasks, as well as the vehicle calibration.

One emphasis during development was to achieve a high level of mechanical and electrical reliability, because the vehicles are used by a high number of visitors on a daily basis. Therefore, extensive durability investigations were conducted in the early phases of the project with the initial prototype vehicles, under various temperature conditions. The results of the investigations verified the high quality of the integration.

One key project goal was to achieve the European Single Vehicle Approval for all vehicles, which is necessary in order to drive the vehicles on public roads. In very close cooperation with the TUV Rheinland, the requirements were initially defined and validated in subsequent tests. Important parts in those requirements were the high-voltage safety aspects, the battery installation, as well as the EMI/EMC levels. At the end of the development process, the Single Vehicle Approval was achieved for every vehicle.

After successful completion of the project at the start of this year, visitors can now drive these vehicles within the Better Place visitor center in Israel and, for the first time, experience electric mobility.

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Fleet of Electric Vehicles in Israel