

AID NEWSLETTER

04.07.2012

EUROPE'S LEADING AUTOMOTIVE NEWSLETTER

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1212 Mercedes begins to feel pressure of global slowdown pages 9 - 10

Big Japanese comeback in the US - Detroit loses earlier gains pages 16 - 20

Radically new B-Class MPV - Mercedes on the ball again pages 12 - 16

France

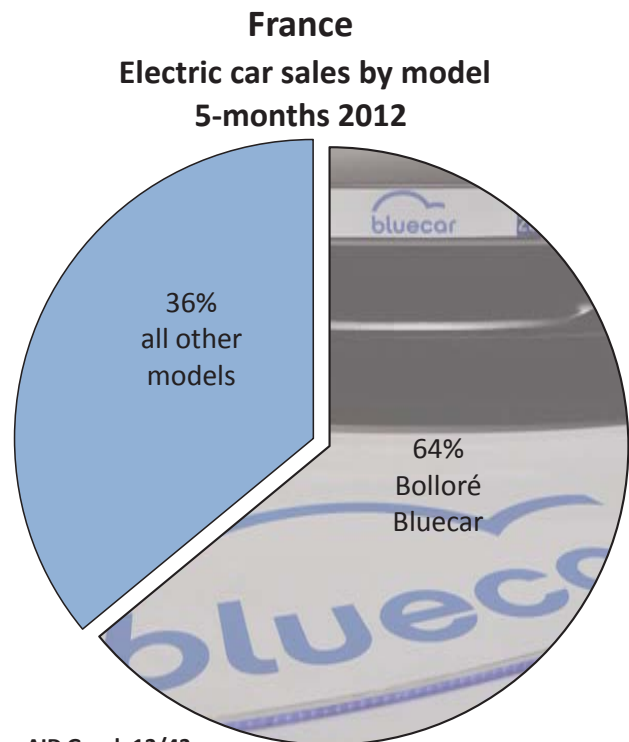
Low voltage trickle charge

If Bluecar's rental fleet additions are ignored, just 165 plug-ins were sold in France this May

As a first and outwardly mildly encouraging sign for a largely disillusioned electric car industry, electric car demand in France appears to have picked up just a bit from the snail's pace seen during the early months of this year.

Nevertheless, after digesting latest trends, domestic carmakers Renault, Peugeot or Citroën are having to confront the unpalatable truth that the beginning of France's much-hyped electric car future is not quite materialising as envisaged, and that some head scratching and lateral thinking will be needed to give France's largely lifeless electric car market a high-voltage jump start.

Compared to the 395 electric cars reaching French streets for the first time in April this year, sales in May topped that level by almost 43 per cent, thus bringing France's first time electric car registrations in May to some 564 units, marking the best monthly turnout so far this year. While nothing to get excited about, in cold statistical



AID Graph 12/43

Countries	In Depth & Other Topics:	Companies
W-Europe ..2-6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17	'Pay as you go' specials	Aston Martin 17
Austria2	French EV market made up mainly of fleet rental additions, few genuine retails..... 2	Audi 4, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17
Belgium2		Autolib 2
China 10, 11	Initial optimism dulled	AVL 11
Denmark2	Earlier electric car sales forecasts now seen as too optimistic..... 3	Bentley 17
Eire2		Bernstein Research..... 9, 10
Finland2	Toyota back with a bang	BMW 4, 6 - 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17
France 1, 2, 3, 8, 9	After earthquake, tsunami & recall crisis, Toyota has roared back like a Lion... 5 - 6	Bolloré 1, 2
Germany..2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13		BorgWarner Turbo..... 10, 11
Italy2	Transforming risk into opportunity	BYD 10, 11
Japan 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20	BMW and Toyota to widen technology sharing partnership6 - 8	Changan..... 11
Netherlands..... 2, 4, 5		Chery 11
Norway2, 4, 5	Lion not up to scratch	Chevrolet..... 17, 18
Portugal.....2	Investors raise loss estimates for shaky Peugeot..... 8 - 9	Chrysler 17
South Korea 11, 17, 19		CitigroupGlobal Markets 8, 9, 10
Spain2	Avalanche of opportunities	Citroën 1, 8, 9
Thailand.....5, 18	BorgWarner scoops turbo supply deal with China's BYD..... 10 - 11	Daihatsu 5, 6
Sweden2		Daimler 17
Switzerland.....2		Deutsche Bank..... 8, 10
UK.....2, 3, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16		FEV 11
USA9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20		Fiat 18
World 5, 7, 9		Ford 17, 18, 19
		GM 8, 9, 17, 19
		GM Opel/Vauxhall 3, 5
		Greatwall 11
		Hino 6
		Honda..... 16, 17, 18, 19, 20
		Hyundai-Kia..... 17, 18, 19, 20
		Infiniti 10, 17
		Jaguar 11, 17
		JD Powers 12
		J.P Morgan 8
		Kamaz 20
		Lamborghini 17
		Land Rover..... 11, 17
		Lexus 8, 17, 20
		Maserati 17
		Mazda 17
		Mercedes ..4, 9, 10, 12 - 15, 16, 17, 20
		Mini 4, 10, 17
		Mitsubishi 11, 17
		Nissan 2, 3, 4, 17
		Porsche 11, 17
		PSA Peugeot 1, 2, 8, 9
		Renault 1, 2, 3
		Ricardo 11
		Rolls-Royce 17
		Smart 4, 17
		Subaru 17
		Suzuki 17
		Tata 17
		Toyota..... 5, 6, 7, 8, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20
		UBS 9
		Volvo 3, 17
		VW 15, 17, 18