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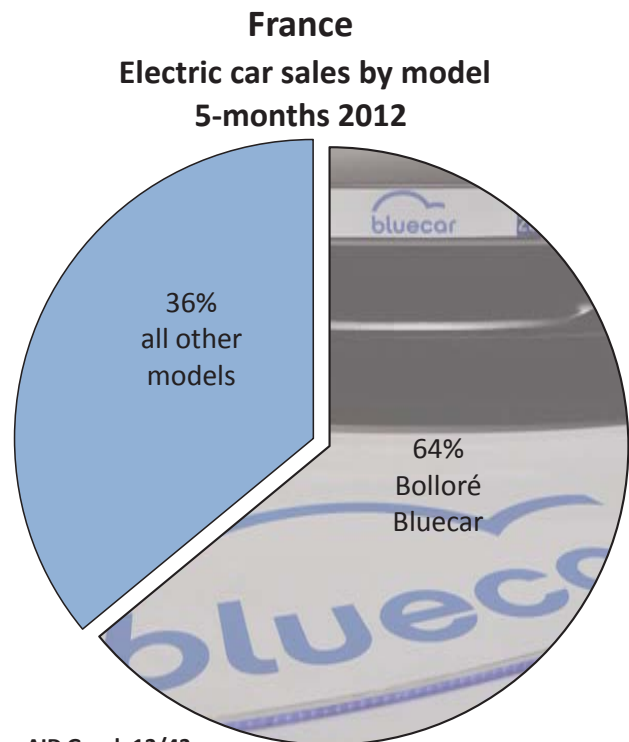
Low voltage trickle charge

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

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