

DAIMLER TRUCK

Daimler India Commercial Vehicles

Press Release

April 17, 2024

Daimler India Commercial Vehicles set to foray into Battery Electric; announces strategy for long-term readiness for decarbonizing transportation solutions

- **Forays into battery electric market with the all-electric, Next-Generation eCanter**
- **India market launch of the all-electric eCanter in the next 6 to 12 months**
- **Sets long term readiness strategy for CO₂-neutral propulsion in future products**
- **Diesel ICE and CO₂-neutral propulsion will co-exist for the foreseeable future**

Chennai – Daimler India Commercial Vehicles (DICV), the wholly-owned subsidiary of Daimler Truck AG (“Daimler Truck”) announced its foray into the Indian battery electric market with the all-electric, Next-Generation eCanter. The market launch of the all-electric eCanter in India demonstrates the company’s first step towards its larger vision to decarbonize its entire product portfolio in the long term. The all-electric eCanter, which marks DICV’s foray into India’s light-duty truck segment, will be launched in the market within the next 6 to 12 months.

From a global perspective, Daimler Truck is fully committed to the Paris Climate Protection Agreement. The pioneer of modern transportation wants to make CO₂-neutral transport a worldwide success and contribute to combating of climate change. With a clear vision to decarbonize the transportation industry and reduce resource consumption, Daimler Truck is striving for its new trucks and buses to be CO₂-neutral in Europe, Japan and USA by 2039, and globally by 2050. DICV is working on the readiness of a CO₂-neutral product portfolio in line with Daimler Truck’s global decarbonization vision and the overall target for India as soon as possible following the aforementioned core markets.

Mr. Satyakam Arya, Managing Director & CEO, Daimler India Commercial Vehicles said, “All our efforts are being put into achieving robust readiness for our future products that will feature CO₂-neutral propulsion technologies in the long term. The launch of the all-electric eCanter in India, within the next 6 to 12 months, is the first step in our long-term strategy to decarbonize our entire product portfolio. However, the reality is that diesel ICE and CO₂-neutral propulsion technologies will continue to co-exist in the Indian market for the foreseeable future. A long-term plan like ours hinges on many complex

external factors, some of which are, the availability of a charging and refuelling infrastructure, the availability of green energy, cost parity and wide-scale customer acceptance. Therefore, our initial focus with the eCanter is to achieve product and service excellence, along with customer acceptance. Over the next two decades we will have a firm footing with decarbonized transportation solutions and will be making progress towards becoming a leader in sustainable transportation in India.”

DICV has a keen eye on the how the Indian market shapes up over the years. The company’s CO₂-neutral propulsion technology roadmap is being prepared in line with Daimler Truck’s global technology strategy with battery electric and hydrogen-based drive technologies. DICV has already developed a BharatBenz hydrogen fuel cell concept coach in alliance with a large Indian conglomerate. In the future, DICV will introduce trucks across different utility segments that will serve long haul, mining, construction, POL, dumper, RMC and so forth for various freight and terrain requirements.

“LNG, if used at all, will be an interim, tactical solution for long haul transportation. We will primarily commit to battery-electric and hydrogen-based propulsion technologies across our future product portfolio, in a phased manner. One thing is for sure that we will be ready with the right vehicles when the market is,” said **Mr. Arya**.

The all-electric eCanter for India is undergoing advanced trials. The battery electric platform originated in Japan where the series production of the first-generation eCanter started in 2017. The all-new, Next-Generation eCanter had its world premiere in Japan and Europe in the second half of 2022. Since the launch of the first-generation in 2017, the eCanter has sold in hundreds in Europe, Australia, New Zealand and Hong Kong. The proven, next-generation of the eCanter will have significant presence in major markets around the world with a 100 variants.

India’s CO₂-neutral propulsion technology market is still in its infancy and therefore has tremendous scope in the long term. India is also a world-renowned base for R&D and will continue to grow as the hub for product development in the future, as new technologies get introduced. However, India needs conducive, robust policies and a market environment to compete with the world going forward.

Commenting on how a conducive policy framework is crucial to ensuring economic viability for customers, **Mr. Arya** added, “Successful adoption of CO₂-neutral vehicles is possible if there is wide consumer acceptance about changes in the equations of total cost of ownership. This underscores the influence of important factors in achieving success in sustainable mobility solutions. By foraying into the CO₂-neutral propulsion technologies, DICV aims at contributing to India’s future as it progresses towards becoming one of world’s top five commercial vehicle markets.”

###

Media Contact:

Sushant Balsekar, +91 75503 29990, sushant.balsekar@daimlertruck.com

Ronak Shah, +91 73971 48111, ronak.v_shah@daimlertruck.com

Further information on Daimler Truck is available at:

Asia.daimlertruck.com and www.daimlertruck.com

Daimler Truck at a glance

Daimler Truck Holding AG ("Daimler Truck") is one of the world's largest commercial vehicle manufacturers, with over 40 main locations and more than 100,000 employees around the globe. The founders of Daimler Truck have invented the modern transportation industry with their trucks and buses a good 125 years ago. Unchanged to this day, the company's aspirations are dedicated to one purpose: Daimler Truck works for all who keep the world moving. Its customers enable people to be mobile and get goods to their destinations reliably, on time, and safely. Daimler Truck provides the technologies, products, and services for them to do so. This also applies to the transformation to CO2-neutral driving. The company is striving to make sustainable transport a success, with profound technological knowledge and a clear view of its customers' needs. Daimler Truck's business activities are structured in five reporting segments: Trucks North America (TN) with the truck brands Freightliner and Western Star and the school bus brand Thomas Built Buses. Trucks Asia (TA) with the FUSO and BharatBenz commercial vehicle brands. Mercedes-Benz (MB) with the truck brand of the same name. Daimler Buses (DB) with the Mercedes-Benz and Setra bus brands. Daimler Truck's new Financial Services business (DTFS) constitutes the fifth segment, the product range in the truck segments includes light, medium and heavy trucks for long-distance, distribution and construction traffic and special-purpose vehicles used mainly in the municipal and vocational sector. The product range of the bus segment includes city buses, school buses and intercity buses, coaches and bus chassis. In addition to the sale of new and used commercial vehicles, the company also offers aftersales services and connectivity solutions.

Daimler Truck Asia at a glance

Daimler Truck Asia (DTA), under Daimler Truck AG, is an organizational unit that jointly operates Mitsubishi Fuso Truck and Bus Corporation (MFTBC) – an icon in the Japanese commercial vehicle industry with 90 years of history with its FUSO brand – and Daimler India Commercial Vehicles (DICV), an up and rising challenger in the Indian market. DTA adopts a strategic business model that allows its group entities to collaborate on product development, production, exports, sourcing and research activity to provide innovative, cutting-edge and best value products to customers. DTA's vision is "to develop mobility solutions to embrace a better life for people and the planet," and is aligned with Daimler Truck's purpose, "For all who keep the world moving."

Daimler India Commercial Vehicles Pvt. Ltd. at a glance

Daimler India Commercial Vehicles (DICV), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Daimler Truck AG, Germany, and operating under the umbrella of Daimler Trucks Asia, is a full-fledged commercial vehicle player in India with a brand dedicated to its home market: BharatBenz. DICV produces and sells trucks from 10 to 55 tons, as well as BharatBenz buses, Mercedes-Benz coaches, and bus chassis. DICV's state-of-the-art manufacturing plant at Oragadam near Chennai spreads over 400 acres (160 hectares) including a highly modern test track and is home to the company's headquarters, R&D, and training operations. With one global quality standard, it also produces Daimler Trucks' brands of FUSO, Mercedes-Benz, and Freightliner. Products and parts are exported to more than 60 markets in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East. DICV represents an overall investment of more than INR 9,560 crores.