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EcoFuel World Tour – Press Release 4 / Dec. 13, 2006

Eurasian long-term test for gas-powered VW Caddy EcoFuel

- **"Exactly the right vehicle for the record tour"**
- **Comfort combined with low fuel costs**
- **Heading for India with a tank full of natural gas**

Travelling around the globe is a strain for man and material alike: Highways, rural roads, mogul slopes and desert crossings, extreme heat, severe cold and rain afflict both driver and vehicle. Still, after the first 15,000 kilometres of the "EcoFuel World Tour", adventurer Rainer Zietlow and his VW Caddy EcoFuel show no signs of fatigue.

"It was just the right decision to pick this car", Zietlow said while in Dubai. He and his team consisting of a photographer, a cameraman and a technician, will still be on the road for four months in their gas-powered car. Then, upon arrival in Leipzig/Germany, a Guinness World Record will be theirs.

Swift and comfortable

Before the start of the tour, Zietlow had tested various vehicles and chose the VW Caddy with 80 kW (109 PS). It offers low interior noise levels; conversation is possible even on rough roads. "The gas-powered Caddy delivers handling and performance that is equal to cars with conventional petrol engines", said Zietlow. It reaches a top speed of approximately 170 kph, and swiftly accelerates from zero to 100 kph in 14 seconds.

In the Middle East, where desert roads are dominated by overloaded old trucks, fully occupied busses and ancient used cars, the compact van was among the fastest vehicles.

"In terms of fuel consumption, the natural gas Caddy completely outdoes any petrol car", said Zietlow. The 2.0l engine just burns between six to eight kilogrammes of gas per 100 kilometres, depending on the road quality. In total, fuel costs have only summed up to 850 Euros, whereas a comparably powered vehicle with a petrol engine would have used up 1,040 Euros.*

Reliable and modest

Adventurer Zietlow highly appreciates the reliable and uncomplicated technology of the front wheel drive vehicle. Up to now, no major problems have occurred: "In case anything more serious should happen, the VW Caddy can be repaired worldwide in any workshop. The engine compartment is very orderly; every part can be reached easily."

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Zietlow and his team only once came close to repairing the vehicle, when driving at night from Syria to Jordan: Suddenly a metre-deep hole appeared in the road surface ahead, and they could only just evade it. "We would have lost a rear wheel", said the adventurer. On the other hand, the next VW dealership could have supplied a new one quickly.

Towards India

The record tour goes on: By boat from Dubai to Pakistan, then on the road India and China until the end of the year. In January the next leg takes the team to Southeast Asia, from where they will depart to Australia by boat again. Downunder they are going to tick off three of five continents.

The tour's aim is to prove worldwide availability of environmentally friendly and low-priced natural gas as vehicle fuel. Beyond that, Zietlow wants to set a new Guinness Record – to score the highest number of countries on five continents, all visited with a gas-powered vehicle. Furthermore, for every driven kilometer the adventurer and his sponsors donate ten Euro cents for a children's village in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Pictures: Zietlow and his VW Caddy EcoFuel (C: R. Zietlow, F. Janusiewicz)

*Data based upon consumption of an average middle class passenger car (petrol: 10l/natural gas: 7kg) and fuel prices in Germany (petrol: 1.23 Euro per litre/natural gas: 0.79 Euro per kilogramme)

More information about the route, adventures and drivers as well as pictures and videos are available online: www.ecofuel-word-tour.de

Dear ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues, All Public Relations matters concerning the EcoFuel World Tour are coordinated by Service Global Press. Please contact us under

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