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EcoFuel World Tour – Press Release 3 / Nov. 23, 2006

For half a Cent from Teheran to Abu Dhabi in a gas-car

1. **Cheap natural gas in Iran**
2. **Thousands of taxis powered by natural gas**
3. **On track with world record**

Some 14,500 kilometres are behind Rainer Zietlow and his natural gas-powered VW Caddy. During their round the world trip, the "Eco Fuel World Tour" team presently is in Shiraz, Iran, for a stop-over. Zietlow's total fuel costs so far have only summed up to 800 Euros – and the next 300 kilometres come almost free of charge. In the country of the 7th biggest producers of natural gas one kilogramme of this fuel only costs 0.006 Euro Cents. The gas-powered VW Caddy consumes a mere seven to eight kilogrammes per 100 kilometres.

Natural gas and Iran

The history of natural gas used as vehicle fuel (CNG – Compressed Natural Gas) in Iran dates back to 1975. At that time 1,200 taxis have been changed over in Shiraz for using the eco-friendly fuel. Today, 146,000 passenger cars and light commercial vehicles in Iran run on natural gas, most of them retrofitted. Using technology from CNG systems manufacturer Landi Renzo and Endress+Hauser, a measurement and process engineering provider, 107 workshops throughout the country retrofit vehicles.

Among Iranians, a series gas-powered vehicle like VW Caddy Eco Fuel stirs a lot of interest. In Teheran, Zietlow and the manager of the Iranian taxi fleet exchanged their experiences – the manager was so convinced afterwards that he now considers ordering 8,000 units for taxi use.

New roads, ancient ruins

The road network in the Middle East is fully developed; especially Iran impressed Zietlow with modern roads and excellent infrastructure. A touristic highlight was a visit of the ancient Persian city of Persepolis: with a special permit, Zietlow in his VW Caddy could drive up to the gate of a former world empire's centre.

Now, with a tank fueled up for just half a Cent, the world record road map takes adventurer Rainer Zietlow to Abu Dhabi, 1,300 kilometres to the south.

Picture: Through the desert - Zietlow and his VW Caddy Eco Fuel.

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More information about the route, adventures and drivers as well as pictures and videos are available online: www.ecofuel-world-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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All inquiries as well as requests for photographs and interviews can be directed at Mr Peter Lehr and Mr Helmut Weinand. Frequent updates on the EcoFuel World Tour can be found under www.ecofuel-world-tour.com

