

# Service Global Press

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### Press release

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Record drive: Successful round the world trip with natural gas vehicle

- First round the world tour with natural gas vehicle
- Longest leg without filling up
- Saving money and CO2

The first round the world trip with a vehicle fueled by natural gas has been completed successfully. After six months and 45,000 kilometres across five continents and through 26 countries, Rainer Zietlow, Franz Janusiewicz (photos), Falk Gunold (camera) and Florian Hilpert (technician) have come back to Germany. They returned with their undamaged record vehicle, a close to series VW Caddy Eco Fuel.

This record trip proved that natural gas has the potential to serve as an eco-friendly fuel alternative worldwide: it is clean, inexpensive and available everywhere. Using natural gas as fuel significantly reduces emission loads caused by road traffic.

### The records

Next to the "EcoFuel World Tour" record, the team can also claim another superlative: the longest trip in a natural gas vehicle without stopping for fuel, namely the distance of 3,100 kilometres between Cairo and Teheran. With nine additional high-pressure gas tanks on board, the planned route could be followed even in regions with weak filling station infrastructures. Because of varying pump pistol designs, three adaptors were of great help.

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Zietlow also crossed a mountain pass of 4,000 metres altitude between Chile and Argentina - only a few natural gas vehicle ever went up so high.

#### Fuel costs and environment

During the whole trip, the Caddy was fuelled up only 33 times - with different pressures between 160 Bar in India up to 250 Bar in Germany and Austria, and with differing qualities of gas of 80 percent methane in India and up to 98 percent methane in southern Germany. More methane means gas with a higher amount of energy and thus a bigger reach with one tank full.

The "EcoFuel World Tour" sports a high environmental concern. With a CO<sub>2</sub> emission of 157g/km, the natural gas powered VW Caddy emits 42 grammes less CO<sub>2</sub> than the version with a 1.6l petrol engine. Over a total distance of 45,000 kilometres, this difference adds up to 1,9 tonnes less CO<sub>2</sub> emitted. Beyond that, the usage of natural gas leads to a reduction of hydrocarbon emissions of 60 percent. If 45 percent of all German passenger cars could be converted to using natural gas, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions would be reduced by 30 million tonnes per year. This applies even more for emerging nations with big fleets of old and dirty petrol cars.

Another benefit of natural gas are low costs. In drawing an exemplary comparison by taking in to account current German fuel costs\*, the costs for the world trip using natural gas are 3,000 Euros lower than with petrol and 400 Euros lower than with diesel. In reality, economies were much more extensive because in some countries like Iran prices for natural gas were as low as 0.006 Euro cents per kilogramme.

#### Final destination

The "EcoFuel World Tour" has proven that natural gas worldwide is an adequate and ecological alternative to petrol and diesel. It also showed that technology and infrastructure have reached a high standard internationally.

Beyond that, the “EcoFuel World Tour” also has a charitable aspect. For every kilometre driven, Rainer Zietlow’s team donate eleven Euro cents for the welfare group SOS Kinderdorf in Bangalore/India. A total of 5,000 Euros will grant children a home and a better future.

The “EcoFuel World Tour” has been made possible by sponsors who believe in the advantages of natural gas fuel. Rainer Zietlow and his team express their gratitude to VW commercial vehicles division, OMV, Walker, Endress + Hauser, TÜV Rheinland, Adnoc Distribution, Landi Renzo, Schenker Logistics, Swagelok, Stäubli, LUK, Raufoss, Michelin, Panasonic, and Nikon for financial but also organisational and personal support. This project could not have been completed successfully without their help.

\*Data based on consumption figures of an average middle class passenger car (petrol: 10l/natural gas: 7kg) and fuel prices in Germany (petrol: 1.23 Euros/l; natural gas: 0.79 Euros/kg)

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](http://www.ecofuel-world-tour.com)

