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EcoFuel World Tour – Press Release 6 / Jan. 14, 2007

Halftime for natural gas record tour: Good CO2 balance, low fuel costs

- Natural gas available around the globe
- Low prices worldwide
- Eco-friendliness increases popularity

With his gas-powered VW Caddy Eco Fuel, adventurer Rainer Zietlow has now put behind him approximately 27,000 kilometres. Looking back on the record tour's first half, the result is positive with a very good CO2 balance and a four-digit sum of savings on fuel costs compared with a petrol-powered vehicle. Also, natural gas as fuel is globally available ? without problems.

Natural gas vehicle emit 25 per cent less CO2 than petrol vehicles. Zietlow's van has 80 kW/109 PS and it emits 153 grammes of CO2 per kilometer, while a comparable petrol-powered vehicle would emit more than 200 grammes per kilometer. Natural gas vehicle also emit less nitrogen oxide, carbon monoxide and particulate matter than conventional petrol or diesel vehicles.*

This eco-friendliness makes natural gas a state-subsidized alternative for African and Asian mega cities suffering from air pollution. In many places old vehicle fleets are converted for the use of natural gas, which is available everywhere and cheap. In this respect, Zietlow was impressed by Indian capital Delhi: "There is a ban for diesel and petrol busses and taxis in the city's centre, resulting in clear skies above. But as soon as you drive through the outskirts you're under a thick layer of smog."

Another reason for the popularity of natural gas is the price. In most countries along Zietlow's route gas was much cheaper than conventional fuel. In Iran, for example, the adventurer could fill his tank a little more than one Euro cent. Here, this low price makes natural gas attractive also for locals. Even compared with German prices for gas and petrol, Zietlow has saved as much as 1,850 Euros.

There have been no serious supply problems during the whole of the tour; natural gas has been available in Europe, Northern Africa, Middle East and South East Asia. Zietlow was confronted with technical problems only in India, where gas pumps work with less pressure than needed to achieve full pressure in the vehicle's tank ? like a football that cannot be pumped up fully with a weak air pump. Because of that the range per tank sank about ten per cent.

/2

The Eco Fuel World Tour's second half now begins in Australia. After crossing the continent, the route continues to South America and the United States. After 180 days, Zietlow will reach Leipzig/Germany on April 13, where he will present his record vehicle at the Auto Mobil International (AMI).

* Data based on the consumption figures of an average middle class passenger car (petrol: 10 litres/natural gas: 7 kg) and German fuel prices (petrol: 1,23 Euros per litre/natural gas: 0,79 Cents per kg)

Pictures: F. Janusiewicz

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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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

