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EcoFuel World Tour – Press Release 7 / March 26, 2007

Eco Fuel World Tour: The Eldorado of natural gas

- **Biggest fleet of natural gas vehicles In South America**
- **Record driver Zietlow: It's never been so easy to get gas fuel"**
- **Great interest in VW Caddy Eco Fuel**

Adventurer Rainer Zietlow, mechanic Florian Hilpert, photographer Franz Janusiewicz and camera man Falk Gunold now have 37,000 kilometres on the mileage counter of their natural gas powered VW Caddy EcoFuel. For this, they were on the road approximately five months, their route led them from Cologne to Istanbul, Cairo, Delhi, Singapur and across Australia to Buenos Aires and Sao Paulo. Fuel costs were a mere 2,070 Euros – with petrol they would have spent 4,600 Euros*.

Easy refuelling in Argentina

For Zietlow, Southamerica is the "natural gas Eldorado". Here, three million vehicles form the world's biggest fleet of gas-powered vehicles. Every second car that runs on this low-emission and low priced fuel is found on the roads between the Gulf of Mexico and Tierra del Fuego.

With the biggest fleet of gas-powered vehicles worldwide, Argentina has more than 1.400 so-called "gasolineras" offer the alternative fuel - even on those roads leading through Pampa.

According to Zietlow's experience, the supply with natural gas is excellent in all of South America. Yet, filling up the tank never is uneventful: Whenever the record drivers open the luggage compartment to reach the gas tanks, people crowd around the vehicle. "It is packed with gas tanks, which always attracts other drivers. So we always have to explain the technology before taking off."

Natural gas in Brasil: Eco-friendly tank filling

There are roughly 1.32 million natural gas vehicles in Brasil, an increasing number. Here, energy is produced mainly by water power and natural gas from national production can be used for heating and as vehicle fuel. Currently, there are just under 1,200 gas filling stations in Brasil

Here, this low-priced fuel is called "gas natural". One kilogramme of gas costs 45 cents, one litre of petrol is one dollar. "Converting conventional petrol cars to run on gas is not expensive over here", says Zietlow. One reason why Zietlow mainly sees older converted cars is because new gas vehicles are quite costly.

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Worldwide availability of natural gas as fuel

Zietlow's "EcoFuel World Tour" aims at proving the worldwide availability of natural gas as an eco-friendly and low-priced fuel. After crossing five continents, Zietlow will reach Germany in early April. Currently he is on his way to Mexico and New York.

Pictures: F. Janusiewicz

* 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)

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

