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Beratung für Presse, Kommunikation und Werbung

Herderstr. 18 * 40237 Düsseldorf * Tel. 0211 / 66 00 84 * Fax. 0211 / 67 15 58 * E-Mail: sgp@global-press.de

Press release

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A new eco record: Around the world in a gas-powered car

- Kick-off for Guinness record trial
- 45,000 kilometres with environmentally friendly natural gas
- Route leads through Himalaya, Middle East and Australian desert

Starting shot for a new record : From Cologne/Germany, adventurer Rainer Zietlow started a 180-day trip around the world in gas-powered VW Caddy Eco Fuel. One target of the 45,000 kilometre „Eco Fuel Marathon“ is an entry in the Guinness Book of World Records.

Even more important, with their round world trip 36-year Rainer Zietlow and his Challenge4 team want to prove worldwide availability of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) as eco-friendly and powerful fuel for passenger cars. Charity also has top priority in their roadbook - for every driven kilometre ten Euro cents are going to be donated to a SOS Children's village in Katmandu/Nepal.

From Cologne the team goes via Vienna to Istanbul, Damascus and then Cairo. From Egypt their route takes them to Teheran and Bombay, through the Himalaya range and into China. The following legs lead to Bangkok, Singapore and then Australia.

From the southernmost point of the record trip the car is going to be air-shipped to Chile. From there, the next great cross-national leg leads via Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and the United States to Canada. Finally, team and car go back to Germany by airplane.

After 180 days Mr Zietlow wants to reach Leipzig/Germany to exhibit his car at the Auto Mobil International (AMI) car show.

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On this occasion, the Guinness world record will be proven - a trip through five continents and most of their countries in a gas-powered vehicle, without interruption or returning to the starting point.

The record vehicle is a regular series VW Caddy with a 80 kW 2.0-litre combustion engine. In addition to four standard underbody gas tanks, Mr Zietlow has equipped his car with nine reserve tanks in the loading space, which adds up to a total of close to 200kg CNG fuel on board. The adventurer is aiming at a fuel consumption of eight kilogrammes per 100 kilometres, which makes a range of 2,500 kilometres possible.

Before Mr Zietlow started his record trip, experts from German technical organisation TÜV Rheinland sealed the VW Caddy's petrol tank in the presence of a Guinness representative, making sure that the car can only be fueled up with CNG.

Next to VW Commercial Vehicles, international gas provider OMV acts as a main sponsor for the record trip. It is also supported by the following companies: TÜV Rheinland, Walker (automotive supplier company), Endress + Hauser (measurement and process engineering), ADNOC (mineral oil company), Landi Renzo (CNG systems manufacturer), Schenker (logistics), Swagelok (fluid systems products), Stäubli (engineering), LuK (automotive supplier company), Raufoss (automotive supplier company), Michelin (tyres), Panasonic (electronics), Nikon (photographic equipment).

While on the road, Mr Zietlow keeps a weblog under www.ecofuel-world-tour.com.

Pictures:

erdgas01.jpg: The record team: Franz Janusiewicz, Florian Hilpert, Falk Gunold, Rainer Zietlow

erdgas02.jpg: Rainer Zietlow in the VW Caddy Eco Fuel at the Cologne starting point

erdgas03.jpg: TÜV Rheinland sealing the VW Caddy's petrol tank

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

Service Global Press GmbH & Co. KG, Herderstr. 18, 40237 Düsseldorf/Germany
Tel. **49.*211.660084, Fax **49.*211.671558, Email glp@global-press.de

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