ANGVA2U Info *23/2020. 18th December 2020 (for ANGVA members only)*

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1.0 Selected News / Articles

1.1 India

First mobile CNG dispensing unit launched

1st December 2020. New Delhi

Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan

Number of CNG stations doubled since 2014: Petroleum Minister Pradhan

The country's first mobile Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) dispensing unit was launched on Tuesday.

According to officials in the know, the unit will focus on meeting requirements of regions where CNG pumps have not been set up. The unit was launched by Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan, on Tuesday. The Mobile Refuelling Unit will be operated by Mahanagar Gas Ltd (MNGL) in Pune.

At the event, Pradhan inaugurated MNGL's five stations through video conference. He also inaugurated the civil work at LNG/CNG station at Pathardi, Nashik, Maharashtra, and CNG supply to buses in Nashik.

More stations

Emphasising on the push towards natural gas, Pradhan said the number of CNG stations in the country has doubled since 2014. He said, "When we took over in 2014, there were not more than 1,300 CNG stations in the country. With five stations added on Tuesday, we will almost reach the figure of 2,500 stations. But we have to keep pushing ourselves to reach the figure of 10,000 CNG stations in the coming few years."

Pradhan said the City Gas Distribution (CGD) sector has emerged as a major industry for natural gas consumption. The demand will increase as more geographical areas become operational and consumption increases in domestic, transport, commercial and industrial sectors.

Also speaking at the event, Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Tarun Kapoor, said the company should ensure that 2-3 compressed bio-gas plants are connected to the gas network.

Source: https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/first-mobile-cng-dispensing-unit-launched/article33220784.ece#

1.2 India

India's Patna city to set up 12 new CNG stations

17th December 2020. Author: PetrolPlaza Correspondent Pablo Plaza

Twelve new CNG stations and 50 CNG buses will be deployed next January in a bid to curb pollution levels in Patna, one of the most polluted cities worldwide.

© iStock

Twelve new compressed natural gas (CNG) stations and 50 CNG buses will be rolled out next January in Patna, the capital and largest city of India's state of Bihar, reports The Times of India (TOI).

The new 50 CNG buses and the 12 pumps are being deployed in a bid to curb Patna's air pollution levels, told TOI the Bihar Transport Secretary, Sanjay Kumar Agarwal.

Bihar Transport Department will also either convert all diesel-run autorickshaws into CNG or replace them with new ones, according to TOI.

CNG supply began in Patna after the inauguration of the city's gas distribution network in February 2019. Nearly 5,000 CNG-powered autos circulate at present in Patna. Patna is one of the most polluted cities in the world. Hence the efforts to introduce eco-friendly vehicles and cleaner fuels like CNG.

Source: *https://www.petrolplaza.com/news/26224*

1.3 Estonia

Tallinn public transport co procuring 100 more compressed gas buses

14th December 2020. By BNS/TBT Staff

TALLINN - The Tallinn public transport company Tallinna Linnatranspordi AS (TLT) on Monday announced public procurement for purchasing 100 more compressed natural gas (CNG) powered class one intra-urban buses of the M3 category.

The public procurement has been announced with an option to buy 50 more vehicles of this type. The deadline for bids is Jan. 29, 2021, according to TLT.

Member of the management board of TLT Otto Popel said in a press release that the objective of the procurement is to purchase up to 150 biomethane-powered buses and proceed with Tallinn's transition to environmentally friendly means of public transport.

"By renewing its vehicle fleet, the company is pursuing the objective of replacing all diesel buses with an environmentally friendly alternative by 2025 and introducing altogether 350 biogas buses on the routes," Popel said.

Popel added that in order to do so, TLT is procuring 100 CNG buses in 2021 -- 75 regular and 25 articulated buses. "The procurement contract establishes the option of purchasing up to 50 more CNG buses," he said, adding that TLT has at present already introduced 100 biomethane-powered buses on the capital city's routes.

"The 100 Solaris CNG buses procured on the basis of the previous procurement's option agreement will be delivered to Tallinn in 2021. That means that in one year, there will be 200

CNG buses on the capital city's streets, which will have replaced the oldest diesel buses that are currently still in use," Popel noted.

The TLT management board member said that the winning bidder in the new procurement is to deliver the buses to TLT within a year from the signing of the agreement, that is by the start of 2020 at the latest.

The expected period of use for the buses is up to ten years with an average yearly mileage of 80,000 kilometers per bus.

Source:
https://www.baltictimes.com/tallinn_public_transport_co_procuring_100_more_compressed_gas_buses/

1.4 China

Vehicles sales in China to continue on upward trend

12th December 2020. By Li Fusheng. China Daily

(Paris)SAIC Motor's MG-branded electric vehicles await loading at a port in Shanghai. [Photo provided to chinadaily.com.cn]

China's rebounding vehicle sales are expected to total 25 million this year, narrowing the gap with last year to 2 percent, while in 2021, the upward trajectory will continue, with the market expected to grow to 30 million in five years, the country's top auto industry body said on Friday.

As the world's biggest vehicle market, China continues to lead the global auto industry in recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The nation's automobile sector also was hit hard early this year. The first monthly sales growth did not come until April. But the growth has been in double digits since May, according to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers.

"The recovery has turned out to be much better than expected," said Fu Bingfeng, the association's executive vice-president.

Statistics from the group show sales in the first 11 months totaled 22.47 million, a 2.9 percent dip from 2019. It had forecast an annual decline of 15 percent to 25 percent when the pandemic was at its peak in China.

New energy vehicles are expected to see record high sales this year. Deliveries in November totaled nearly 200,000 vehicles, more than double the figure in the same month of 2019. The association said total deliveries would reach 1.3 million in 2020, up 8 percent year-on-year.

"China's fast and effective control of the pandemic helped restore consumers' confidence, which is crucial for big-ticket items like cars," said Thomas Fang, vice-president of consulting firm Roland Berger's China office.

This is seen in the popularity of premium vehicles. More than 300,000 were sold last month, up 31.8 percent year-on-year, according to the manufacturers' association. The segment's growth rate has been around 30 percent since April.

Fang said the government has been quick to promulgate such measures as relaxing license restrictions in big cities and extending subsidies to 2022 that were scheduled to expire in 2020, helping to boost sales.

Since the beginning of the year, central and local authorities have rolled out a series of measures to facilitate vehicle sales, including a campaign to sell electric cars and plug-in hybrids in rural areas.

Statistics from the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology show that around 180,000 vehicles have been sold since the campaign started in July, accounting for 16 percent of the country's total sales from January to November.

On Thursday, Gao Feng, spokesman of the Ministry of Commerce, said that it will work with other ministries and local governments to ease new car purchases, remove restrictions on secondhand vehicles and develop car rental and other car-related markets.

With the global auto industry hard hit by the pandemic, China has become increasingly important for international carmakers such as Germany's Volkswagen AG and General Motors Co of the United States.

Globally, the German company sold 6.5 million vehicles in the first nine months of the year, and China represented more than 40 percent of its sales. Already the most popular gasoline-powered vehicle maker in the country, Volkswagen is increasing investment in the new energy vehicle segment.

It said on Tuesday it will build a $3 billion electric car plant with Chinese carmaker JAC Motors in the country. Volkswagen has set a goal of selling 1.5 million new energy vehicles annually in 2025 in China.

Source: *https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202012/12/WS5fd402f0a31024ad0ba9b636.html*

1.5 India

Rs 2 lakh crore investment in 5,000 compressed bio-gas plants in offing

20th November 2020. PTI

To boost the availability of affordable and clean transport fuel, an agreement was signed for setting up 900 compressed bio-gas or CBG plants by companies such as Adani Gas and Torrent Gas.

NEW DELHI: India will see an investment of Rs 2 lakh crore in setting up 5,000 plants that will produce gas from bio and crop wastes by 2023-24, Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Friday.

To boost the availability of affordable and clean transport fuel, an agreement was signed for setting up 900 compressed bio-gas or CBG plants by companies such as Adani Gas and Torrent Gas.

Under the Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) initiative, the government is looking at setting up of 5,000 CBG plants by 2023-24 with a production target of 15 million tonnes, an official statement said.

Speaking on the occasion, Pradhan said, "We have developed a clear-cut roadmap for SATAT. Letter of intent for 600 CBG plants have already been given and with today's signing of MoUs for 900 plants, a total of 1500 CBG plants are at various stages of execution."

As much as Rs 30,000 crore investment is envisaged in these 900 plants, he said. "A total of 5000 CBG plants with an approximate investment of Rs 2 lakh crores are envisaged."

The gas produced at CBG plants can be used as fuel to power automobiles. Biofuels have the potential to reduce fuel import bill by Rs 1 lakh crore, he said without elaborating.

Pradhan said SATAT provides for generating gas from municipal waste as well as forest and agri waste. Animal husbandry and marine wastes are also included.

The policy provides for guaranteed offtake of the gas produced at the CBG plants by the state-owned firms.

"SATAT will establish an ecosystem for the production of compressed bio gas from various waste and biomass sources in the country leading to multiple benefits such as reduction of natural gas import, reduction of greenhouse gas emission, reduction in burning of agriculture residues, remunerative income to farmers, employment generation and effective waste management," the statement said

Source: *https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/rs-2-lakh-crore-investment-in-5000-compressed-bio-gas-plants-in-offing/79325402*

1.6 Sweden

Gasum, UECC make history with LNG, LBG ship-to-ship bunkering

18th December 2020.

Gasum performed its first ship-to-ship liquefied natural gas (LNG)-liquefied biogas (LBG) bunkering to a cargo vessel.

The bunkering was conducted by Gasum's LNG bunker vessel Coralius at anchorage outside the Port of Gothenburg, Sweden.

A fuel blend consisting of LNG and 10% renewable LBG was supplied to M/V Auto Energy, a dual fuel LNG pure car, truck carrier (PCTC) operated by United European Car Carriers (UECC).

UECC, the short sea roll-on, roll-off ship owner and operator, is taking 'concrete action' to lower its emissions by using a blend of LNG and LBG provided by Gasum in its PCTC.

UECC's vessel is the first of its kind to bunker renewable fuel at anchorage ship-to-ship. The bunkering was the first to supply a seagoing vessel with a blend of LNG and LBG.

"With this delivery, UECC further positions itself in the front of the market by demonstrating a bold commitment to the increased uptake of renewable fuels," said Glenn Edvardsen, CEO of UECC.

"We have made a significant investment in a pioneering solution that recognises our customers' desire for a sustainable logistics partner. We choose this path because we believe in taking the initiative and signifying to the market that it's possible to transport your cargo carbon-neutrally with UECC."

Jacob Granqvist, maritime sales director at Gasum, said: "We are very excited to see our first ship-to-ship bunkering with the blend of LNG and LBG go smoothly.

"We can now perform ship-to-ship bunkering with different blends of LNG and LBG, which will open new possibilities for our clients as well as for us to go forward in decarbonising maritime transport."

Renewable and sustainable LBG does not add any new CO_2 emissions into the atmosphere and, therefore, reduces greenhouse gas emissions even further. LBG emits close to zero NOx and SOz, and no particulate matter, contributing to cleaner air, particularly for those living close to the sea and busy ports.

Source: *https://www.bioenergy-news.com/news/gasum-uecc-make-history-with-lng-lbg-ship-to-ship-bunkering/*

1.7 Korea

Hyundai faces lawsuit over EV fires as GM launches recall

19th December 2020. Reuters. Reporting by Hyunjoo Jin and Heekyong Yang. Editing by William Mallard and Stephen Coates,

The plaintiffs want Hyundai to replace the entire battery pack - the most expensive part of the vehicle - of their Kona EVs, not just update the software, as the company's recall provides

SEOUL: Hyundai Motor Co is being sued over a string of battery fires in its electric vehicles (EVs), just as General Motors Co recalls nearly 70,000 EVs with batteries from the same maker, LG Chem Ltd.

The owner of a Hyundai Kona EV, a South Korean civil servant who asked to be identified only by his surname Kim, is among some 200 people who lodged a class-action lawsuit against Hyundai last week, seeking compensation for what they say is the reduced value of their EVs and other losses, Kim and two lawyers representing them told Reuters.

The court filing is not a public record.

Kim had initiated a petition drive to sue the Seoul-based carmaker after the same brand of EV caught fire in his neighbourhood, forcing about 20 residents to evacuate their homes.

One of the lawyers said they were initially seeking 8 million won ($7,200) per plaintiff but they could increase demand as the trial proceeds.

The plaintiffs want Hyundai to replace the entire battery pack - the most expensive part of the vehicle - of their Kona EVs, not just update the software, as the company's recall provides.

EV sales are climbing globally as the technology holds out the promise of cleaner transportation, with costs falling and driving ranges increasing. But the emerging risk of fire from overheated batteries could set back the entire industry.

Recalls could mean reputational as well as financial damage to Hyundai and other automakers, which are pushing into the EV market to meet tougher emissions regulations and to challenge market leader Tesla Inc. The problems could also dent consumer demand for EVs.

"A battery that is not safe is like a bomb," said Park Chul-wan, a South Korean battery expert.

A series of fires involving automakers, including GM, Bayerische Motoren Werke AG (BMW) and Ford Motor Co, expose the challenge the industry faces in managing the risks of new technology and the pressures to boost battery production and performance.

GM said on Friday it was recalling 68,677 EVs with LG Chem batteries, after five reported fires and two minor injuries. Hyundai has recalled globally more than 74,000 Kona EVs, its top-selling electric car, after 16 of them caught fire in South Korea, Canada and Europe in two years.

South Korea's safety agency is investigating the cause of the Kona fire, and depending on the results, Hyundai and LG Chem could face costs up to $540 million if they have to replace all the affected batteries, analysts reckon.

In a statement to Reuters, Hyundai said the cause of fire is unclear but it suspects that internal damage to batteries may be to blame, adding that it is investigating the case with its supplier and the transport ministry.

Hyundai said it is not considering setting aside money for recalls as it expects its software fix will be able to prevent fires by detecting problems."We are constantly monitoring the situation after an update of the (battery management system) and we will continue to try to minimise consumer inconveniences going forward," Hyundai said, adding that problems were found only in some vehicles, which would get battery replacements at no cost.

While GM investigate the root cause of the fire, GM advised Bolt EV owners to change the charge settings on their vehicles, limiting charges to 90% to reduce the risk of fire.

A LG Chem spokesman said, "We will cooperate with Hyundai Motor and General Motors and sincerely proceed with an investigation to identify the exact cause" of the fire. LG Chem CEO Hak Cheol Shin told Reuters last month that the battery system is very complex, suggesting problems may be caused by other components made by Hyundai's suppliers.

"As a supplier of a key component of the battery system, we clearly feel responsibility. But until a clear cause would be determined, we can't come up with measures to address the problems," he said.

In addition to the problems at Hyundai and GM, Ford recently offered to replace the battery packs of its Kuga plug-in hybrid vehicle over fire risks, saying this could cost the carmaker $600 million in the second half, including a cost to meet Europe's emissions regulations.

Ford and BMW have recalled vehicles using Samsung SDI Co batteries, citing cell manufacturing defects. A Samsung SDI spokesman said investigations are under way into the cause of the fires.

Tesla was investigated by a U.S. safety authorities over a battery software upgrade of some vehicles following vehicle fires.

'SCARED'

Hyundai and LG Chem are at odds over the root cause of the fires as South Korea's safety agency investigates the case. LG denies the battery cells are defective.

The plaintiffs are pressing Hyundai to take more decisive action. "While acknowledging flaws in the batteries, your company has been relying on the wrong policy - software replacement, which is only a temporary fix - to buy time," they say in a letter to the carmaker, seen by Reuters.

A 35-year-old woman, who asked to be identified only by her surname Shin, said she had to evacuate her apartment complex at dawn with her baby in a stroller last month after a Kona EV caught fire and engulfed the underground lot in flames.

"The stench of burned electronics and smoke swept through the whole neighbourhood," Shin told Reuters.

Before the fire, she believed EVs were good for the environment. Now, she says, she tells her relatives not to buy them. "Electric vehicles have just become something I'm so scared of."

($1 = 1,105.2800 won)

Source: https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/power/hyundai-faces-lawsuit-over-ev-fires-as-gm-launches-recall/79294881

1.8 Korea

Hyrogen buses operating in Seoul

18th December 2020. By Joanna Sampson

Hydrogen-powered buses are running on roads throughout downtown Seoul in South Korea as of today (18th Dec).

The Seoul Metropolitan Government (SMG) said the buses will be introduced in the regular intracity route for bus 370.

This particular route was chosen due to the close proximity of a nearby hydrogen station, the Gangdong Hydrogen Station, which is 2.4km from the garage of 370 buses, making refuelling.

A single refuel is sufficient for a day-long operation, SMG said.

The introduction of the hydrogen-powered bus is one of the key projects of the Seoul-type Green New Deal, announced in July.

The introduction of hydrogen-powered buses will lead to an eco-friendly transport system and enhance mobility convenience and driving safety, improving the overall quality of the public transportation service.

The SMG has plans to open the era of hydrogen-powered vehicles by increasing the number of hydrogen-powered buses to 1,000 by 2025 and establishing 11 hydrogen stations, leading the vitalisation of green mobility, which is the key to the Green New Deal.

Source: *https://www.h2-view.com/story/hydrogen-buses-operating-in-seoul/*

End