

## Electric vehicle infrastructure armenia

EVs in particular show great promise in helping meet CO2 reduction targets in the transport domain and in reducing local air pollution. These vehicles have become increasingly popular, now that the main barriers - the purchase price and their limited range due to high battery costs - have been overcome through the introduction of more affordable, long-range EVs into the Armenian market.

Currently, there is no specific regulation on EV charging stations in Armenia, unlike fossil fuel filling stations. Accordingly, all construction and operation of charging stations for EVs is subject to general technical and other requirements. Since there are no local manufacturers of EV charging stations yet, the equipment is imported and needs to pass the necessary certification for compliance with local standards for electrical installations. As a result, now it is most likely for legal entities to purchase a charging station for the needs of their own vehicle fleet.

The public network of EV charging stations in Armenia consists of fewer than 30 stations with medium-level charging speed. Almost 90% of EVs are charged at home. In order to start developing commercial EV charging stations, a critical number of 4,000 EVs would be required, according to the "plug.am" project. It can therefore be concluded that the local EV market has thus far only been developed by independent enthusiasts.

It should also be noted that there are different types of charging stations. On the one hand, the charging capacity is an important consideration, as it has a direct bearing on how fast the batteries can be recharged. Apart from this, there are two competing standards for vehicle connectors: CHAdeMO and SAE J1772 Combo. In practice, both connectors work very well and almost all EVs are equipped to utilise either connector.

Finally, the engine of an electric car is much simpler than one powered by fossil fuels, as it has fewer moving parts and no gears. Therefore, the scope for malfunction or breakage is far smaller, and the actual number of parts which may need to be replaced or repaired is also lower. A positive outlook: maintenance and repair will be much lower than for conventionally fuelled cars.

In summary: yes, electric vehicles are one of the most talked about topics in the motor industry today, and not only in terms of technical issues. Further growth in the use of electric cars will also depend on their affordability, so dedicated financing schemes and services targeting these types of cars could be very attractive for potential buyers and will have significant impact. It is clear that the current and future development of EVs will have long-lasting effects on the country and that demand will gradually increase, as demonstrated by the current trend.

On January 17, the RA Government approved the Government's legislative initiative on the draft law "On Making Addendum to the Tax Code of the Republic of Armenia", according to which the import of electric

motor vehicles will be exempt from value added tax. The exemption is supposed to be in effect until January 1, 2022.

On November 15, 2018 the "Armenia Energy Agency" foundation has launched the Plug.am project with financing from the UNDP GEF Small Grants Program. The project aims to support infrastructure development for electric vehicles (EV) by importing and installing charging stations throughout Armenia, increasing the number of environmentally friendly cars in the country.

The suggested supplement in the Tax Code is meant to include import of EVs in the VAT-exempt transactions and operations list. The vehicle should not be exported within 365 days after importation, which includes EAEU (Eurasian Economic Union) member states. This approach is meant to prevent export to other EEU Member States and avoid commercial arbitrage. The proposed law is supposed to be in effect till January 1, 2022.

According to official data, the current number of electric cars in Armenia does not exceed a few dozens. VAT-exemption on imports will encourage purchases of EVs in the country.

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