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Transport Malta receives first BMW i3

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The Ministry for Transport and Infrastructure and Transport Malta recently took possession of the first BMW i3 ever to be brought over to Malta as part of the ongoing EU-Funded PORT-PVEV project, which is being spearheaded by Transport Malta.

The BMW i3 will be used mostly in relation to transport activities within port areas by Transport Malta and the Ministry for Transport and Infrastructure. The BMW i3 is one of thirteen fully electric vehicles that are being purchased through the EU funded PORT-PVEV project part of which demonstrates Electromobility. The PORT-PVEV project is part financed by the Operational Programme 'Italy-Malta' Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2007-2013 with a total budgetary allocation of €2,500,000. The project is led by Transport Malta with the collaboration of the Ministry for Transport and Infrastructure, the Catania Port Authority and the Province of Caltanissetta. The same project will see the purchase and installation of fast electric car charging infrastructure at Transport Malta buildings, the installation of a Solar PV Plant on top of the Malta Transport Centre, and the first solar-powered car ports with complimenting electric car charging capabilities which will be installed at various locations within the Valletta and Cirkewwa port areas.

Hon Joe Mizzi hailed this initiative as another concrete step forward in the Government's drive to make transport more sustainable and environmentally friendly. He reminded the general public that in January 2014, Government launched a grant scheme to encourage motorists to buy electric vehicles and electric quadricycles. The scheme provides for a grant of €4,000 to individuals registering an electric car and €1,500 to those registering an electric quadricycle. The grant increases from €4,000 to €5,000 in case of persons registering an electric vehicle while at the same time de-registering a car which is at least 10 years old. To further encourage the deployment of Battery Electric Vehicles, the Government has extended the grant to second hand electric vehicles which are not more than 12 months old. It is expected that a number of vehicles will be introduced on the local market very shortly.

BMW i3 is the first Battery Electric Vehicle to be produced from the ground up as a consumer fully electric vehicle by the giant German automotive company. The BMW i3 purchased and owned by the Transport Authority comes from the very first production line since production started earlier this year. It is also the first vehicle to be exported outside the German and Austrian territory and the first one to be used by any Government in Europe. The i3 which is BMW's first zero emissions mass-produced vehicle, forms part of BMW's "Project i". The vehicle employs the very latest technology including full integration of various Intelligent Transport Systems applications and the use of eco-friendly materials both on the outside and inside of the vehicle. The vehicle was purchased through official public procurement procedures and directly from BMW Germany.

The recently set-up Malta National Electromobility Platform (MNEP) is continuing with its work to promote and demonstrate Electromobility in Malta with the preparation of a number of projects that will materialise in the near future and additional measures in order to encourage the take up of electric modes of transport in line with Government Policy.



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