

MINI E Road Test: Powered by E.ON

In a field test that E.ON has been running since July 2009 in cooperation with BMW, participants have been driving 15 electro-MINIs (MINI E) through and around Munich. After six months of e-mobility, the interim results of a first user survey are now available. Most of the test drivers plugged into the charging stations at their workplace in the morning and in their private garages in the evenings to charge up their MINI Es. Using one of the public charging stations that E.ON established in Munich's inner city and at the airport was a third option.

The electricity to charge the vehicles comes from E.ON's Bavarian hydropower plants and is hence CO₂-free. This fact is important to almost all of the users. They unanimously agreed that they want green power from renew-

ables to recharge the cars. Dealing with the charging cable on a daily basis, however, received mixed reviews. While some of the participants can imagine it as a permanent solution, others would prefer an alternative such as battery exchange or inductive non-contact charging. E.ON is currently investigating induction charging within the framework of other projects.

The project is scheduled to run for at least twelve months. BMW and E.ON aim to gain more practical experience with the new technology during this time and test the MINI E's suitability for daily use. The detailed final results of this field test will be presented in the summer of 2010 and will then be used to further develop automobile concepts, batteries, and the charging infrastructure.

MINI E technical information

Engine	Asynchronous electric motor (exclusively electricity powered)
Capacity	204 PS
Acceleration	0 - 100 km/h in 8.5 seconds
Battery	Lithium ion battery, 5,088 individual cells
Charging time	230V/12 A: 10.1 hours 230V/32 A: 3.8 hours
Battery weight	260 kg
Range	max. 250 km
Top speed	152 km/h (regulated)
Average consumption	15 kilowatt hours/100 km



E.ON has installed charging systems in the home garages of the participants testing the MINI Es.