

ELECTRIC COMMODORE BREAKS 24-HOUR WORLD DISTANCE RECORD

Melbourne, Monday 23 July 2012: The battery-switchable fully-electric Holden Commodore developed by EV Engineering has unofficially broken the distance record set by a production electric car, achieving 1886 kilometres of driving over a 24-hour period.

A team of 16 engineers and technicians from EV Engineering and its member companies began the attempt at 1pm on Saturday 21 July, supported by a team in the workshop operating the semi-automated switch station that switches a depleted battery for a fully-charged one.

Each team member drove one loop of 122 kilometres on public roads between Port Melbourne and Geelong, with the distance record beaten at 10.08am on Sunday 22 July.

“It’s a great feeling to see the electric car our team designed and developed here in Australia has beaten a world distance record. While our achievement is not an official record, it’s a sound validation of our car’s capabilities,” said CEO of EV Engineering, Ian McCleave.

“When we began the project to develop a proof-of-concept electric Commodore, it was critical that we incorporate ground-breaking battery switch technology. That’s what got us across the line. We were able to quickly switch our depleted battery for a fully charged one, so we didn’t have to park and plug in in order to recharge. We were able to just drive, switch, and keep going.

“We are very proud of the team’s efforts this weekend. It shows that with battery switch, the age of the electric car has truly arrived”, Mr McCleave said.

Record enabled by ground-breaking battery-switch technology

At the end of each 122 km loop, the car had between 20 and 25% charge left in the battery, indicating that more than 150 km would have been achievable. The depleted battery was switched in the EV Engineering workshop at the end of each lap, a total of 15 times.

The mechanism used to switch the battery is a scaled-down version of the Battery Switch Stations that will be rolled out in Australia by Better Place, the leading global electric car recharge network. Australia is the third roll-out market for Better Place, which already has operational networks in Israel and Denmark.

Event independently scrutineered by the Society of Automotive Engineers Australasia (SAE)

The Society of Automotive Engineers Australasia (SAE) observed the trial across its entire 24- hour duration, and is satisfied that:

- The event was completed on public roads and in compliance with local road laws
- The event was completed within one continuous 24-hour period, from 1:00pm on the 21st of July 2012 until 1:00pm on the 22nd of July 2012
- The same EV Engineering electric Commodore was used across the entire 24 hour event
- The EV Engineering electric Commodore was propelled by electric power for the entire 24 hour event, and no other fuel or energy sources were used to propel the vehicle at any stage
- The measuring equipment used to record time and distance travelled was not tampered with
- The GPS unit mounted in the test vehicle recorded a total distance travelled of 1886km across the 24-hour period

Geoff Pearson, Executive Director of the SAE, congratulated EV Engineering on its outstanding achievement.

“The SAE recognises this is an important milestone in proving the suitability of electric vehicles for the Australian marketplace, and it demonstrates Australia’s world class automotive engineering capabilities,” Mr Pearson said.

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About EV Engineering

EV Engineering Limited is a consortium of leading Australian automotive suppliers and industry participants that has designed and built seven proof-of-concept electric Holden Commodores, Australia's most popular passenger car for 15 years. The group is comprised of Air International, Bosch, Continental, Futuris, GE, and electric car recharge network Better Place. For further information visit www.evengineering.com.au