Market potential of Battery Electric Vehicles

Stefan Goede

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Abstract

The transition from internal combustion engines to electric vehicles is one of the most challenging tasks of our modern society. Electric vehicles offer significant advantages such as the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, lower noise pollution and greater independency of oil. Although there is a lot of public attention to electric mobility and car manufacturers keep on presenting prototypes and show cars, the actual market share of electric vehicles is negligible in all passenger vehicle markets today.

This thesis analyses both the advantages and barriers for this new technology and investigates the market potential of electric vehicles. Success factors for the transition to electric mobility are put forward. Based on actual data, customers' total costs of ownership for current and future electric cars are compared with costs of conventional vehicles. In a scenario outlook to 2020, possible future developments of electric vehicles' cost competitiveness are discussed.

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List of abbreviations

BMBF Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung

CARB California Air Resources Board

CEO Chief executive officer

CO2 Carbon dioxide

CTO Chief technical officer

EU European Union

EUR Euro (1.3 USD = 1 EUR)

EV Electric vehicle

FCEV Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle

G2V Grid-to-Vehicle
GBP Pound sterling
GHG Greenhouse gas
GM General Motors

HEV Hybrid Electric Vehicle

HFCV Hydrogen fuel cell vehicle ICE Internal combustion engine

ICEV Internal combustion engine Vehicle

Km Kilometre

Km/h Kilometres per hour

kWh Kilowatt-hour

LPG Liquefied petroleum gas

mpg Miles per gallon Mph Miles per hour

NiMH Nickel metal hydride battery

OEM Original Equipment Manufacturer (an auto company)

PHEV Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicle

SOC State of Charge

TCO Total costs of ownership

USD US Dollar (1.3 USD = 1 EUR)

V2G Vehicle-to-Grid

Wh Watt-hour

WWF World Wildlife Fund