BMW Group presents pioneering street lighting system with integrated EV charging station.

Light and Charge system combines cutting-edge lighting and electric drive technologies – first unveiled at EUROCITIES 2014 in Munich – prototypes now up and running at BMW Welt – high-efficiency LED technology, adaptive lighting levels, charging station integrated in the BMW i ChargeNow network.

Munich. At EUROCITIES 2014 in Munich (5 to 8 November), where more than 500 delegates from European cities have come together to discuss innovative infrastructure projects, the BMW Group showcases a high-efficiency street lighting system that doubles as a charging station for electric vehicles. This innovative system is the outcome of a pilot project dubbed Light and Charge. The first two prototype systems, installed at BMW Welt, went operational today when they were officially taken into service. Light and Charge is a combined state-of-the-art LED street light and charging station for electric vehicles. The charging station is integrated in the BMW i ChargeNow network, which means its users also enjoy convenient cashless payment. This project is an example of how the BMW Group is using its technological expertise not only to develop electric vehicles but also as part of a much wider commitment to electric mobility.

"Light and Charge is a simple and innovative solution which aims to seamlessly integrate a smoothly functioning charging station network into the urban landscape," said Peter Schwarzenbauer, Member of the Board of Management of BMW AG, speaking at the official inauguration of the first two integrated street light / charging station systems. "The BMW i ChargeNow card already offers access to the world's largest network of charging stations, and now it gives us great pleasure, in cooperation with our partners, to further expand this network with the help of the Light and Charge project. After all, a seamless charging infrastructure is essential if we want to see more electric vehicles on the road in our cities in the future."

With its modular LED design, the Light and Charge street light is much more energy-efficient than conventional street lighting and provides more effective illumination. It can be installed anywhere and its modular design can to be tailored to different locations. Up to four LED modules can be used to provide

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night-time lighting on main roads, while one or two modules are sufficient to provide agreeable lighting on side streets and in residential areas. As is already the case with vehicle headlights, LED technology allows more targeted light distribution with less unnecessary and ecologically undesirable "scatter".

With the development of the Light and Charge system, the BMW Group has signalled its commitment to the deployment of a seamless charging station infrastructure for electric vehicles. The solution it is developing in cooperation with the city of Munich can be grafted straight onto the existing local authority street lighting infrastructure, substantially increasing the number of public charging stations at a stroke. The pilot project is due for launch in Munich in spring 2015. EV charging stations can be set up at any location where suitable parking is available, simply by replacing conventional street lights with Light and Charge systems.

The EV charging cable connects to a standard connector on the Light and Charge street light. The integrated control panel allows drivers to start charging with a simple press of a button. The electricity used is billed via the BMW i ChargeNow network – a system already familiar to users of the large numbers of public charging stations already participating in this network. Worldwide, the ChargeNow network already offers BMW i customers approximately 18,000 charging stations. In Europe, the concept of provider-independent charging can be further optimised with the help of the Hubject "e-roaming" platform. The Light and Charge systems presented and in use in Munich have been designed from the start for integration into the ChargeNow network and the Hubject platform. That will allow these additional charging stations to be used by as many drivers as possible, regardless of vehicle model and electricity provider.

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In the event of enquiries please contact:

BMW Corporate Communications

Verena von L'Estocq, Spokesperson BMW i
Tel: +49-89 382 60816
E-Mail: Verena.von-LEstocq@bmw.de

The BMW Group

With its three brands BMW, MINI and Rolls-Royce, the BMW Group is the world's leading premium manufacturer of automobiles and motorcycles and also provides premium financial and mobility services. As a global company, the BMW Group operates 29 production and assembly facilities in 14 countries and has a global sales network in more than 140 countries.

In 2013, the BMW Group sold approximately 1.963 million cars and 115,215 motorcycles worldwide. The profit before tax for the financial year 2013 was € 7.91 billion on revenues amounting to approximately € 76.06 billion. As of 31 December 2013, the BMW Group had a workforce of 110,351 employees.

The success of the BMW Group has always been based on long-term thinking and responsible action. The company has therefore established ecological and social sustainability throughout the value chain, comprehensive product responsibility and a clear commitment to conserving resources as an integral part of its strategy.

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