

World premiere at the Caravan Salon 2011

HYMER presents first motorhome with hybrid drive

Europe's leading motorhome manufacturer sets a new milestone in the caravan industry. At the world's largest trade fair for mobile leisure, Caravan Salon Düsseldorf 2011, HYMER presents the first roadworthy motorhome with hybrid drive. This world first will be presented to the public exclusively in Hall 17.

Bad Waldsee, August 2011

HYMER, Europe's leading manufacturer of quality motorhomes and caravans, is unveiling the world's first roadworthy hybrid-drive motorhome at Caravan Salon 2011 in Düsseldorf. This prototype was developed in cooperation with the vehicle experts at AL-KO Kober.

The current hybrid prototype, a Hymermobil B 578, features as its basic system an EPC (Electric Power Chassis) drive developed by AL-KO. It is known as a parallel-hybrid system, with the front axle driven by a conventional diesel engine and the rear axle driven by an air-cooled electric motor. The driver can choose between diesel or electric power on the dashboard when the transmission is in the idling/neutral position. When the electric drive mode is selected, the diesel engine automatically switches off. This latest prototype, displayed at Caravan Salon, achieves a maximum speed of around 35 km per hour in the entirely emission-free electric drive mode. This (reduced) top speed is the result of a special transmission calibration that generates a roadworthy, comfortable traction force to cope with the three-ton empty weight of the motorhome. That's double the weight of a normal passenger car.

However, in principle a speed of 50 km/h is already technically possible. There's also plenty of potential in terms of range: Currently, the maximum range is 40 kilometres in urban traffic. HYMER aims to double that, which is in theory possible using additional or more powerful batteries. The problem here at present is the extra weight and cost of such a solution.

Pressemitteilung

That's why these issues are the basic challenges to electrical mobility that have to be solved in the future. The experts at HYMER and AL-KO are counting on using intelligent solutions and research into innovative technologies to create the basis for improved electric mobility in the caravanning industry. Also part of this strategy are HYMER's plans to develop a special steering system for an all-wheel drive. Even when it comes to building for the future, HYMER keeps all four wheels firmly on the ground.

Detailed information on HYMER, the current HYMER product range and the exclusive HYMER services are described at www.hymer.com.

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