

**Press
Release**

Electric vehicles' batteries: Industrial orientations
An EDF executive explains the company's strategic choices

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Batteries: what is at stake



Industrial evolution of electric vehicles in the near future will be greatly determined by the improvement of batteries. This is explained by EDF's assistant manager for electric transport, Bertrand HEILBRONN:

"Improving batteries is the main consideration for the future of electric vehicles. New-generation batteries with an energy density three times higher than in lead batteries are already being used in town buses. With these new batteries, or the future lithium batteries, cars will have a range between 200 and 300km, compared with 80km nowadays."

The second trade battle will also be over prices. The new energy storage should be significantly cheaper than existing batteries. Then, according to research results, the energy density of traction batteries should enable to attain a range of over 300km at a reasonable cost within five to ten years.

Does this forecast an explosion of the electric vehicle market?

Bertrand HEILBRONN: "With regard to private vehicles, buying motives are very peculiar. And electric cars will remain for some time a fleet market, responding to companies' and authorities' commitments to protect the environment. Private individuals will perhaps buy them as a second car. But it won't be an all-rounder vehicle yet."

Which vehicle will give an alternative to petrol engines?

It could be the hybrid vehicle, both electric and fuel-propelled. The electric system's range, sufficient for most everyday trips, would be relayed by the petrol engine for longer distances. Although the existing hybrid vehicles do not as yet have this ability without giving out pollution, there is no technological obstacle to achieving it

Future prospects

Bertrand HEILBRONN concluded: *"Around 1995, car manufacturers had great hopes in regard to electric vehicles. The market remained very modest. Nowadays, there is a new wave of electric vehicle projects, with new actors, and car manufacturers invest in hybrid models. Reasonably-priced high energy density batteries are coming. Not only in Europe, but also in China and Japan. The need to protect the environment, tensions over oil products, and the huge needs of emerging countries must lead to deep transformations in years to come."*

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