

Bamako electric vehicle infrastructure

A Croatia-based team used a Tesla Model X to become the first to complete the Budapest-Bamako Rally, one of the largest amateur rallies in the world, using an all-electric vehicle and to cross the Sahara desert in the process.

Now, this was far from a “zero-emission” road trip. Like their gas-powered counterparts who relied on gasoline resupply, they had to partly rely on a gas generator to recharge the Model X:

That’s actually a charger installed and paid for by the Tesla Club Morocco. Tesla is not officially in the country yet, and therefore they haven’t built a local Supercharger network. Tesla also doesn’t offer any service for their cars there, but locals have still decided to import Tesla vehicles to the country.

Congrats to the team. They showed that it’s possible and now it’s only going to get easier for everyone else wanting to attempt similar rallies in difficult environments as both charging and electric vehicle technologies improve.

The Malian industrial conglomerate Ibi Group, known for its work in aviation, renewable energies, and irrigation systems, has expanded its operations into the urban transport sector with the launch of a new subsidiary, Angata.

Angata, which translates to “Let’s go” in Bambara, aims to revolutionize transportation in Bamako by offering electric vehicles (EVs) powered by solar energy.

The company will initially focus on selling electric cars and taxis with a range of up to 300 kilometers. These vehicles will be imported until Ibi Group establishes its own manufacturing plant for EVs in Mali.

“There’s a significant cost difference between traditional gasoline or diesel vehicles and electric vehicles,” said Ibrahima Diawara, CEO of Ibi Group.

“Internal combustion engines cost roughly 100 CFA francs (around EUR0.15) per kilometer for small vehicles and 200 CFA francs (EUR0.30) for larger ones. With our electric vehicles, each kilowatt covers 12 kilometers, translating to less than 15 CFA francs (under EUR0.02) per kilometer. That’s a major change!”

Diawara pointed to China, where a significant portion of vehicles on the road are already electric, and upcoming bans on internal combustion vehicles in developed countries by 2035 as evidence of the shift towards electric mobility.

Mali, with its abundant sunshine (averaging 4,200 hours annually), is well-positioned to capitalize on solar energy and reduce reliance on expensive and polluting fossil fuels.

Moussa Alassane Diallo, Mali's Minister of Industry and Trade, expressed the government's support for the private sector's role in developing electric mobility during the Angata launch ceremony.

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