

## Hydro-Québec, Mitsubishi collaborate on all-electric car trial

Hydro-Québec and Mitsubishi Motor Sales of Canada Inc. (MMSCAN) have announced an unprecedented trial program that will put 50 of Mitsubishi's all-electric cars on the streets of Boucherville, QC.

Under the \$4.5 million pilot program, Mitsubishi and Hydro-Québec will put up to 50 of Mitsubishi's zero-emission all-electric i-MiEV passenger cars on the streets of Boucherville in the largest Canadian project ever fielded to integrate, test, and evaluate all-electric vehicles on urban streets under real-world conditions.

The project, which was announced by Mitsubishi and Hydro-Québec at the recent Montreal International Auto Show, is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2010 and will expose fleet drivers from Boucherville, Hydro-Québec, and other approved companies to the Mitsubishi i-MiEV all-electric minicar, in both fall and winter urban conditions.

The i-MiEV (Mitsubishi Innovative Electric Vehicle) is an all-electric, charge-at-home/office commuter car. Because the battery, the motor and other EV components are mounted beneath the floor, the i-MiEV seats four adults and offers significant interior room and cargo space. Other features include excellent acceleration and a very low centre of gravity, both of which contribute to superior handling and stability. The i-MiEV's specialized battery can be charged with a standard 110v wall socket or 220v dryer type socket commonly found in Canada.

In making the announcement, Hydro-Québec President and CEO Thierry Vandal said that the project is a vital element in the company's commitment to environmental stewardship.

"As announced last year in our strategic plan, Hydro-Québec is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by playing a key role in the electrification of transportation," said Vandal. "This trial is designed to study the vehicles' charging behaviour, driving experience as well as overall driver satisfaction. It will also allow Hydro-Québec to evaluate the challenges involved in integrating electric vehicles into its grid."

Various parameters will be tested and evaluated under the program including overall vehicle performance, driving behaviour, user satisfaction, battery life, charging cycles and charging station performance.

"We are very proud to be leading the way to a greener and more sustainable future by developing environment-friendly vehicles, fuelled by clean, renewable energy," added Koji Soga, president and CEO of MMSCAN.