

July 2019



In June, London Mayor Sadiq Khan announced his ambitious plan to radically expand the capital's EV charging infrastructure, but what does this mean for the market of electronic vehicles?

Speaking at the launch of the London EV Infrastructure Delivery Plan, Mr. Khan declared; *"We need to reject the fossil fuels of the past and embrace an electric revolution in London's transport."*

In a bid to tackle the twin dangers of London's toxic air crisis and the climate change emergency, Khan's plan to become a zero-emission city proposes;

- 2,300 to 4,100 rapid charging points (full charge within 20-30 minutes) to be installed by 2025
- Installation of five flagship charging hubs, allowing for multiple cars to be charged quickly in one location
- Expansion of EV clubs, and bringing more vehicles to market

Industry-wide approval

London Electric Vehicle Company (LEVC)'s CEO, Joerg Hofmann, voiced his support for the plan, stating; "The Mayor's announcement today marks a major milestone in the creation of a robust and capable EV charging network in the UK's capital. The news comes at a time when charging infrastructure is at the top of LEVC's agenda".

But with an 'electric revolution in the capital's transport' just around the corner, what's involved in making EV technology a viable future for the automotive sector? As highlighted by the Mayor, the public sector and private sector must work in union to deliver the charging network that Londoners need. The issue of infrastructure vs demand is very much a 'chicken and egg' situation. Investment in infrastructure is challenging without the justification of consumer appetite for EVs, but consumers will not take up electric vehicles en masse until there are sufficient charging points in place to reduce range anxiety, the fear that EVs will run out of battery over long journeys.

Christina Calderato, head of transport strategy and planning for Transport for London (TfL), agrees, adding; *"The Mayor's Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Delivery Plan shows how important it will be for the whole sector to work together to foster the expected uptake of electric vehicles"*.

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The EV supply chain – what's next?

We continue to work with companies in this sector, producing the valuable components of EV charging units, as well as fastenings for EV battery casings and parts.

This in itself is a fascinating journey in engineering and manufacturing, as these parts need to be specially designed and produced to meet specific requirements and conditions. For example, fasteners need to have isolated coatings to ensure they do not short in the presence of electricity. Lightweighting is another key innovation in this field, as every effort is made to reduce the overall weight of EVs, whose batteries can significantly increase the weight of the vehicle.

The overwhelming support for Khan's plan poses a positive future for a revolutionary 'electric highway', with London leading the world in the ambition of 'zero-emission cities'. This collaborative cross industry initiative is an incredible opportunity for businesses to work together to make EVs a viable future for the automotive sector. The supply chain is prepared, so let the revolution commence!

Further reading

To learn more about our role in the development of EV and EVB technology, visit our [EV charging product page](#) or read our article on [powering progress in EVB](#).