

SEAT receives the “Energy and Sustainability” award

- **The Spanish Gas Association (Sedigas) recognised SEAT for its commitment to natural gas as an alternative fuel**
- **Luca de Meo accepted the award at an event attended by José Domínguez Abascal, Secretary of State for Energy from the Ministry of Ecological Transition**
- **SEAT is currently working on projects to obtain renewable gas for its vehicles**

Madrid, 26/06/2019. The Spanish Gas Association (Sedigas) acknowledged SEAT with the “Energy and Sustainability” award in recognition of the carmaker’s commitment to natural gas as an alternative fuel. SEAT President Luca de Meo accepted the award at a ceremony held yesterday at the Reina Sofía National Museum of Art in Madrid, which was also attended by José Domínguez Abascal, Secretary of State for Energy from the Ministry of Ecological Transition.

Sedigas acknowledged the company’s firm commitment to natural gas as an alternative fuel for sustainable mobility. At present, SEAT is the European carmaker with the broadest range of vehicles fuelled with compressed natural gas (CNG), with three models produced in the brand’s Martorell factory: the Leon, Ibiza and the Arona, the only CNG powered SUV in the world. In 2018 the company tripled its sales of CNG vehicles and announced an investment of 6 million euros to enlarge the Martorell factory capacity in order to increase the number of gas driven vehicles it produces daily from 90 to 250.

Upon receiving the award from Sedigas President Rosa María Sanz, Luca de Meo stated that **“at SEAT we are convinced that natural gas is a key element in the transition toward sustainable mobility. Now is the time to take a step further and boost the creation of infrastructure and make gas a source of renewable energy that can be injected in the network and promote its consumption. Furthermore, biogas and biomethane production represent an opportunity for reducing the rate of emissions derived from transportation.”**

In this sense, de Meo also underlined that **“the goal we must set ourselves is that biomethane be considered a source of renewable fuel, and this is where certificates of origin play a fundamental role. Inexpensive cars that run on clean energy and can be refuelled quickly in a few minutes already exist – they run on gas and biogas.”**

Biogas “created in Barcelona”

With the aim of promoting the circular economy, energy efficiency and emissions reduction, SEAT now has projects underway such as “Life Methamorphosis”. Through this initiative, the company obtains renewable gas for its vehicles from solid urban waste from the city of Barcelona and animal organic waste from a farm in Lleida. In addition, SEAT is also collaborating with Aqualia to turn waste water into biomethane.

In this sense, there is great potential in establishing the certificate of origin for the production of

biogas. This system would ease the development of the industry in Spain, just as in other European Union countries, and being able to transfer these certificates among sectors would open up many possibilities for the transport industry to guarantee a zero impact in terms of “well to wheel” CO₂ emissions; that is, throughout the entire life cycle of a vehicle.

Natural gas fuelled mobility is considered environmentally efficient by the European Union, so this kind of fuel offers the advantage of drivers being able to access European cities when there are traffic restrictions in place due to pollution.

SEAT is the only company that designs, develops, manufactures and markets cars in Spain. A member of the Volkswagen Group, the multinational has its headquarters in Martorell (Barcelona), exporting 80% of its vehicles, and is present in 80 countries on all five continents. In 2018, SEAT sold 517,600 cars, the highest figure in the 68-year history of the brand, posted a profit after tax of 294 million euros and a record turnover of close to 10 billion euros.

The SEAT Group employs more than 15,000 professionals and has three production centres – Barcelona, El Prat de Llobregat and Martorell, where it manufactures the highly successful Ibiza, Arona and Leon. Additionally, the company produces the Ateca in the Czech Republic, the Tarraco in Germany, the Alhambra in Portugal and the Mii in Slovakia.

The multinational has a Technical Centre, which operates as a knowledge hub that brings together 1,000 engineers who are focussed on developing innovation for Spain’s largest industrial investor in R&D. SEAT already features the latest connectivity technology in its vehicle range and is currently engaged in the company’s global digitalisation process to promote the mobility of the future.

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