

AUTOMOTIVE

## Volkswagen future-proofs with mobile charging station

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Powerbank for electric cars. Image credit: Volkswagen

By STAFF REPORTS

German automotive group Volkswagen is looking to make electrification in vehicles more accessible with a mobile charging station.

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The electric vehicle industry could see an upward shift after Volkswagen's new charging device makes it easier on owners to charge their EVs. The new station is a flexible port that is able to charge EVs while stationary.

### EV growth

In situations such as a music festival or major event, a portable charging device will be available for EV owners to charge, similar to a way a cell phone can charge through a powerbank.

The temporary charging station is likely to fit up 15 vehicles with the capacity of 360 kWh.

Quick charging technology enables drivers to charge up in only 17 minutes.

The mobile power station also allows for temporary storage of sustainably generated power, such as solar or wind energy.

Volkswagen states the stations will roll out in the first half of 2019, beginning in Wolfsburg, Germany as a pilot project.



*Volkswagen's charging station. Image credit: Volkswagen*

"The mobile charging stations are a decisive step toward an efficient network of charging points," said Thomas Schmall, chairman of the board of management of Volkswagen Group Components, in a statement. "They can be set up anywhere as required – with or without connection to the power supply.

"This flexibility enables a completely new approach for the rapid expansion of the charging infrastructure," he said. "Cities can, for example, find out the most suitable places for a permanent charging point before making major investments in developing the network.

"In addition, it will be possible to set up a large number of charging stations temporarily – exactly when and where they are needed."

Similarly, BMW hinted at new capabilities for its all-electric i3 in a video promoting a simple but fulfilling lifestyle.

Electric vehicles have become more appealing to luxury buyers, but brands need to continue to show drivers how these models combine innovation and power. As more luxury automakers begin to introduce their own EVs, it is important for BMW to continue to improve its models and demonstrate these advances to consumers ([see story](#)).