

AUTOMOTIVE

Mercedes-Benz begins \$1B global buildout on EV charging stations

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Mercedes-Benz charging stations will take on North America this year. Image courtesy of Mercedes-Benz

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

German automaker Mercedes-Benz starts construction on its high-power EV charging network this year, beginning in the North America.

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Europe, North America and China are among the regions of choice for a company rollout of over 10,000 chargers. By 2027, the North American market alone will contain over 2,500 chargers across its 400 centers.

"Mercedes-Benz already offers what we believe to be the finest EVs in the market," said Ola Kllenius, chairman of the board of management at Mercedes-Benz Group AG, in a statement.

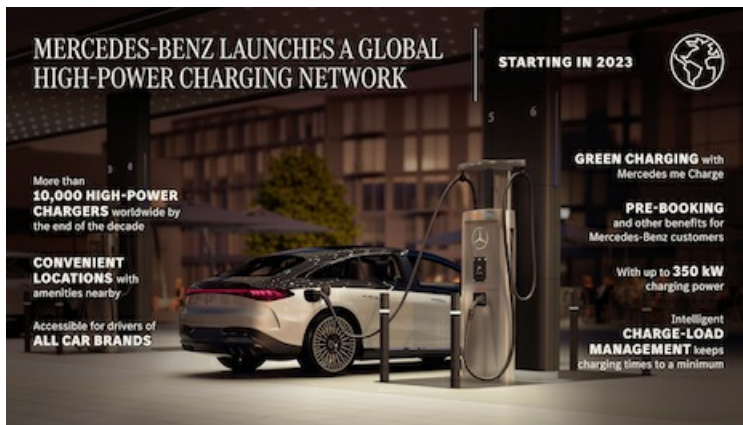
"But to accelerate the electric transformation, we need to ensure that the charging experience keeps pace as well," Mr. Kllenius said. "Our customers deserve a compelling charging experience that makes electric vehicle ownership and long-distance travel effortless.

"We won't take a wait-and-see approach for this to be built That's why we are launching a global high-end charging network."

Ready, set, charge

The announcement arrived at Las Vegas at CES 2023, as the brand cited the move towards reliable sustainability options.

Mercedes is partnering with MN8 Energy for the project, among the biggest U.S. names in battery storage and solar energy, as well as charging technology company ChargePoint.



The high-power network moves the brand closer to its green goals for the decade. Image courtesy of Mercedes-Benz

"Automotive leaders like Mercedes-Benz continue to lead the transition to electric mobility by bringing new EVs to market, and ChargePoint remains committed to enabling charging for all drivers whenever and wherever they want," said Pasquale Romano, CEO of ChargePoint, in a statement.

"With this partnership, we are expanding upon our existing relationships with Mercedes-Benz and MN8 to deliver a seamless charging experience for drivers, and turnkey charging solutions at no upfront cost to site hosts," Mr. Romano said. "By establishing charging hubs in convenient locations across the U.S. and Canada, we're able to provide a superior experience for more drivers who want to charge quickly and easily."

With the contributions of ChargePoint and MN8 Energy, the goal is to complete the network before 2030. The timeline also aligns with Mercedes' deadline of becoming all-electric where regions allow by the end of the decade.

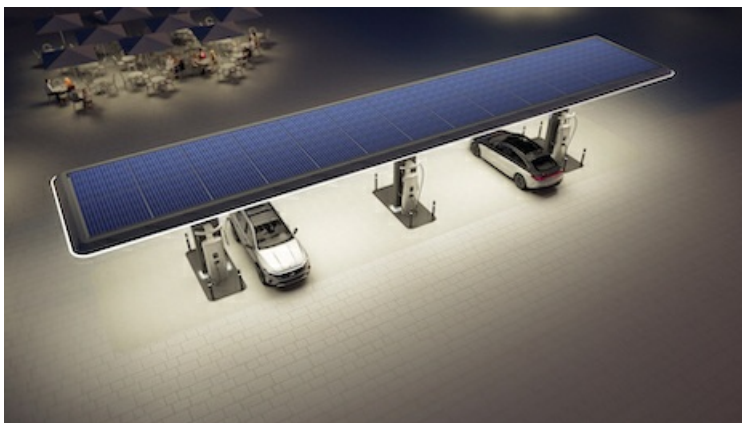
Mercedes has keyed in on the enhancement these moves will bring to the consumer experience, as it builds international sustainable infrastructure, and empowers individuals through access to carbon-neutral driving options. Project partners echo the sentiments.

"MN8 Energy is on a mission to provide enterprise customers, such as Mercedes-Benz, with renewable energy and related solutions on their journey to an electrified, decarbonized world," said Jon Yoder, president and CEO of MN8 Energy, in a statement.

"Supporting the development of this exceptional charging experience helps address one of the most significant barriers to EV adoption range anxiety," Mr. Yoder said. "With each party playing to their strengths, we are thrilled to embark on this collaboration to expand charging access with Mercedes-Benz and ChargePoint."

The charging centers within the network will be placed within vital cities and urban regions, staying near commercial areas and Mercedes-Benz dealers.

Mercedes customers can book a station ahead of time from their vehicle, but the network will be available to the public.



Mercedes charging stations will vary in capacity, with priority given to Mercedes-Benz drivers. Image courtesy of Mercedes-Benz

Those driving long-distance can use the Mercedes-Benz Electric Intelligence tool to plan routes best based on where charging hubs are located, keeping the individual locations' capacities in mind.

Capacity will depend on the location, but most stations will house between four and 12 chargers, the maximum being 30. Stations will have up to 350 kilowatts of power to charge.

Most hubs will also have surveillance systems, and be covered so that weather is not an issue for those charging their EVs.

In another effort to further ease consumers into the EV experience, the "Plug & Charge" function facilitates communication between the charging cable and the car itself, allowing for automatic payments and accurate charging. Non-Mercedes customers will have the ability to pay through other functions.

The company already has the "Mercedes me Charge" offering, allowing current customers access to one million chargers around the world. This includes the European fast network, IONITY.

In 2021, the brand pushed EVs in one of its key markets, via interactive activations across the U.S. ([see story](#)).

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