

AUTOMOTIVE

## BMW goes public with pilot hydro-fleet' program

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*Comprising less than 100 vehicles, a pilot fleet of the BMW iX5 Hydrogen is here. Image credit: BMW*

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

German automaker BMW is calling attention to a new invention an apparatus that operates on one of the planet's most plentiful natural resources.

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Arriving in a pilot fleet of fewer than 100 vehicles, the BMW iX5 Hydrogen is here. Advanced by way of a hydrogen fuel cell system, the car company is spreading word of the new vehicle via an initial presentation to members of the media, in a move that encourages emission-free mobility.

"Hydrogen is a versatile energy source that has a key role to play in the energy transition process and therefore in climate protection. After all, it is one of the most efficient ways of storing and transporting renewable energies," said Oliver Zipse, chairman of the board of management at **BMW AG**, in a statement.

"We should use this potential to also accelerate the transformation of the mobility sector," he said. "Hydrogen is the missing piece in the jigsaw when it comes to emission-free mobility.

"One technology on its own will not be enough to enable climate-neutral mobility worldwide."

New wave

Built on the back of the brand's current X5, BMW's iX5 Hydrogen model was first unveiled as a concept at the "Internationale Automobil-Ausstellung" (IAA), or the International Motor Show Germany in 2019.

By 2021 hydrogen-powered cars were made available for demos, serving as shuttle vehicles for visitors during that year's IAA edition. Now, BMW will employ less than 100 internationally for both demonstration and trial purposes, with distribution to various target groups.



*Interior shot of the BMW iX5 Hydrogen. Image credit: BMW*

According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), hydrogen offers considerable potential as a future energy source in connection with global energy transition activities.

Compelled to create additional options for locally emission-free individual mobility in the future, the Group produced the systems in-house at the Research and Innovation Centre (FIZ) in Munich.

After four years of development, the automaker has announced the launch of a particularly eco-conscious prototype.

Generating a high continuous output of 125 kW/170 hp, BMW explains that a chemical reaction taking place in the fuel cell between gaseous hydrogen from the tanks and oxygen from the air propels the unit. Maintaining a steady supply of these elements to the fuel cell's membrane is critical to the drive system's efficiency.

For those concerned with longevity, filling the iX5's hydrogen tanks takes between three and four minutes.



*A hydrogen refueling station. Image credit: BMW*

Having sourced the individual fuel cells from the Toyota Motor Corporation, BMW is responsible for the development of special hydrogen components, including its high-speed compressor with turbine and high-voltage coolant pump.

The pair have collaborated on the development of fuel cell drive systems since 2013.

The update makes waves as adjacent innovations and initiatives work to cement the luxury player's place as an auto industry leader ([see story](#)).