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Draft 1

LEADING THE CHARGE

AUDI explores the electric vehicle (EV) charging network that's *en route* to full power cruising.

With a passion for next generation cars and technology, South Africans are at the front of the queue when it comes to making the switch to electric vehicles (EVs). Many see beyond potential barriers like load-shedding to envision the move to e-mobility – especially as these vehicles are being backed by a smart network of ultra-fast charging points that are dual powered by renewables.

Audi and its partners are at the forefront of this transition, having invested R45 million in advanced car charging infrastructure across South Africa. Ambitious initiatives have included the installation of the country's first DC 200kW charger with solar power backup. Not only is this solar photovoltaic system one of the largest of its kind in the Southern hemisphere, it can also recharge the EV battery of an Audi e-tron GT in just 15 minutes.

Undoubtedly the local EV market will grow exponentially as we make electric mobility simpler and more widely available for people. To date, the total number of DC and AC charging connectors contributed by Audi stands at 127 and chargers can accommodate a total of 57 EV cars simultaneously, at varying capacities, regardless of model or brand ownership.

This network boasts one of the highest ratios of charging points to electric vehicle car parks in the developing world, including one within approximately every 200 kilometres of the five major road networks. And that's just the beginning. Audi's second phase of infrastructure investment will include four 100kW (DC), eight 60kW (DC), five 25kW (DC), and twenty-five 22kW (AC) fast EV chargers across the country.

Consider too that, with a range between 350 and 480km, Audi e-tron models typically don't require a charge every day. Depending on driving style and daily commuting distances, owners will be able to find their nearest charging station and charge their vehicles regularly, with ease. Plus in light of the documented average daily distance travelled by most South Africans — around 22.5 kilometres — it's conceivable that a fully electric Audi e-tron would only need to recharge completely twice a month.

There's smart times ahead for people on the EV move. Finely tuned, high performance models are available, the support infrastructure is in place and continued investment is being made to keep EV owners steering around the curve. All in all there's a charge to be led in the market, and the willpower to lead South Africans to start their new era engines with complete peace of mind.

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