

PRESS RELEASE

Private Home Charging Network: BMW i and Loxone Provide Solar Powered Smart Charging For Homes.

The UK is one of the leading markets in the adoption of electric cars, whilst countries like Germany, typically the frontrunners for embracing new technologies, have been left behind. When looking at the total adoption rate and government targets, it quickly becomes apparent, however, that both countries are performing equally poorly. With grants of up to £4,500 available the question must be asked: “what is holding consumers back?” The answer points squarely to the lack of infrastructure and trust in a nationwide charging network. Smart Home market leader Loxone have announced a co-operation with and BMW i that is set to change this at their press conference in Munich yesterday. Together they are looking to provide a solar powered charging station for your home.

Speaking about the collaboration in Munich yesterday, Martin Öller, CEO of Loxone reported: “In principle, this partnership enables electric car owners to directly harness the power of the sun and recharge for free. Creating a convenient and cost effective charging network will be one of the main catalysts for the wider acceptance and adoption of electric cars. It is key to reducing transport carbon emissions”

Free solar powered car charging for all

The co-operation between the companies covers Germany, Austria, Switzerland, the UK as well as the Netherlands and Czech Republic. BMW i provide the Wallbox Pro, a fast charging station with integrated charge-management for electric cars whilst Loxone take care of the intelligent control logic integration. Such a partnership revolutionises conventional charging methods and provides controlled and efficient charging: BMW i owners can now look forward to a completely free, solar powered recharge in just four hours.

Peter Mueller, Project Manager at BMW 360 Electric added: “We like to think of holistic solutions that are customer friendly and suitable for the mass market. This co-operation emphasises that e-mobility does not stop at the car, but that a Smart Home can make a valuable contribution to this industry. Loxone and BMW i give consumers the possibility to be independent from public chargers and in addition save money. Many energy aware consumers are looking for integrated solutions - we provide them.”

The Smart Home integration allows the charging to be intelligently managed based on sun-irradiation, the load of other devices in the home and variable electricity tariffs. The “Green Charging” button lets the customer chose to charge their car with self-generated solar power, i.e. without using power from the national grid.

In this mode the car has the 'right of way' over other devices in the home. Other household appliances and devices drawing power from the mains take the backseat and reduce their electricity consumption until the battery of the car is recharged. There is a variety of presets available to suit the customer including Rapid Charging, Economy 7 and Autopilot, which is used for whole home control. Martin Öller further commented: "Looking at the liberalisation of the utility market, we can see that new and independent utility providers will take care of everything when you switch to them. The customer has nothing to do other than save money and this is the recipe for success. Loxone does exactly the same: The customer doesn't have to do a thing, their Smart Home does it for them - like an autopilot."

The product name for the solar powered smart charging kit is the **Loxone E-Mobility Starter Kit**. The kit is tailored to work with the BMW i Wallbox Pro, which itself is compatible with any electric car that uses a Type 2 plug. It is an open system and can be easily retrofitted. The one off cost for the Starter Kit (assuming the home has an existing PV installation) is £465, the Wallbox Pro is £1500. Optimised solar powered charging means no more fuel costs. As a comparison: The average fuel costs for a car are £9500 over a distance of 100,000 miles (based on a consumption of 49 miles per gallon and a fuel cost of £1.02 per litre)

About Loxone

Loxone are the inventors of the Miniserver powered, centrally managed Smart Home - the one with the highest IQ. With over 37,000 completely integrated Smart Homes, Loxone has captured the attention of the market in just seven years. Through the independent control of all aspects in a home, the Miniserver acts like an autopilot, running the home automatically at the most efficient level possible. With more than 250 employees spread across 12 offices, Loxone is one of the fastest growing companies in the Smart Home industry.

About BMW i

BMW Group has a proud history of automotive developments, but the approach to BMW i required a complete re-think of what a car should be. Starting in 2007, BMW i radically re-imagined the complete life-cycle of the car, from its creation right through to end of life recycling, and in the process has defined a future-proof automotive icon.

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