



NEWS RELEASE

April 14, 2023

Honda Motor Co., Ltd.

Yamato Transport Co., Ltd.

Honda, Yamato Transport to Begin Verifying Practicality of New Light Commercial EVs for Pickup and Delivery Operations in June 2023

Honda Motor Co., Ltd. (Headquarters: Minato-ku, Tokyo; President and Representative Executive Officer: Toshihiro Mibe, hereinafter “Honda”) and Yamato Transport Co., Ltd. (Headquarters: Chuo-ku, Tokyo; Representative Director and President: Yutaka Nagao, hereinafter “Yamato Transport”) will verify the practicality of the new light commercial electric vehicle (EV) that Honda plans to launch in spring 2024 for pickup and delivery operations from June to August 2023*.

*Honda will utilize a test vehicle based on its N-VAN microvan to verify practicality.



Test vehicle used in the verification of practicality

While in recent years, the expansion of the e-commerce market has driven an increase in demand for logistics, there is a growing need to achieve sustainable logistics through measures such as the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

By 2050, Honda aims to achieve carbon neutrality through all its products and corporate activities. In the Japanese market, Honda is working to promote EVs from the realm of light vehicles, which are deeply embedded in people's daily lives. This includes a new light commercial EV the company is scheduled to launch in the spring of 2024.

The Yamato Group has established the goal of introducing 20,000 EVs by 2030 as one of its key measures toward achieving virtually zero GHG emissions by 2050 and a 48% reduction by 2030 (compared with fiscal 2020), and is promoting various initiatives to realize sustainable logistics, including the introduction of EVs, primarily light trucks.

The two companies will use Honda's new light commercial EV—scheduled for release in spring 2024—to verify practicality and vehicle performance in pickup and delivery operations, while at the same time verifying the degree of environmental impact reduction. Moreover, the two companies will acquire a range of fundamental data on energy management, including charging operations, and apply it to more practical EV operations.

The new light commercial EV is based on Honda's N-VAN, a light commercial van, and boasts features including large capacity and flat cargo space from the passenger seat to the rear. During verification testing, the companies will install two D-mobico compact mobile refrigeration units, introduced by Yamato Transport, in the cargo compartment for use in delivery of refrigerated and frozen products to take advantage of this characteristic. D-mobico is powered by mobile batteries and does not use dry ice, thereby increasing the environmentally friendliness of delivery operations.

Overview

Verification period: June 1, 2023 (Thursday) to August 31, 2023 (Thursday) (three months)

Number of vehicles: Three

Area: Yamato Transport Nakano Center (Suginami-ku, Tokyo)

Yamato Transport Utsunomiya Kiyohara Center (Utsunomiya-shi, Tochigi)

Yamato Transport Kobe Suma Center (Kobe-shi, Hyogo)

Details of Verification

1) Verification of degree of environmental impact reduction

2) Verification of practicality and vehicle performance in pickup and delivery operations

–Verification of practicality characteristics unique to EVs, including vehicle usability and cruising range

–Verification of durability of vehicle during pickup and delivery operations that require frequent opening and closing of doors, boarding and alighting, etc.

–Verification of performance of vehicle in areas with a variety of operational characteristics

- The 23 wards of Tokyo, where delivery volume is high and there are numerous opportunities for boarding and alighting
- Tochigi area, where driving distance per delivery is relatively long
- Hyogo area, where terrain is relatively hilly

3) Acquisition and verification of a range of fundamental EV operational data –Acquisition of various fundamental data including vehicle speed, aspects of driver operation such as acceleration and braking, electricity consumption by air conditioning, extent of recharging required after driving, recharging time period during daily pickup and delivery operations, and verification of recharging operation and energy management based on the assumption that multiple EVs are in operation

Aiming for a more practical light commercial EV

In addition to this practicality test, Honda is also conducting tests in a variety of other environments. This includes charging and driving tests in regions where the ambient temperature is below freezing, assuming wintertime pickup and delivery operations. Through these efforts, Honda aims to develop and popularize light commercial EVs that are more practical as commercial EVs.



Driving test in snow

Contact

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Related releases (Honda)

Honda Motor to Release New Light Commercial EV in Spring 2024 (December 7, 2022)

<https://www.honda.co.jp/news/2022/4221207.html>

Related releases (Yamato)

Yamato Transport Establishes Concrete Reduction Targets for 2030 Toward Virtually Zero GHG Emissions in 2050 (May 10, 2022)

https://www.yamato-hd.co.jp/news/2022/newsrelease_20220510_1.html

DENSO and Yamato Transport Develop D-mobico, Compact Mobile Refrigerator (February 25, 2021)

https://www.denso.com/global/en/news/newsroom/2021/20210225-g01/2021_04_news.pdf (yamato-hd.co.jp)