

Investment in the Future: TÜV Rheinland Opens Test Center for Electric Vehicle Drive Batteries



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TÜV Rheinland Automotive Component Testing: State-of-the-art independent testing center in Europe / Investment of EUR 24 million in new testing laboratory at German-Dutch Avantis industrial park / Information at www.tuv.com/batterylab

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TÜV Rheinland has opened Europe's most state-of-the-art independent test center for electrical vehicle drive batteries at the Dutch–German Avantis business park. Covering an area of around 2,200 square meters, the laboratory is also one of the largest of its kind. The investment volume amounts to over EUR 24 million and, when fully operational, the facility will employ 25 people. The new laboratory center, which is designed for testing vehicle batteries weighing up to 800 kilograms, was opened in the presence of around one hundred guests from the worlds of business and science.

“Electromobility is an extremely dynamic field. Manufacturers are entering this booming market with more and more new models. Our goal is to not only help make electromobility safe but also to support innovations with our work at our new location in Aachen/Heerlen. After all, we have made technical safety in the interaction between people, technology and the environment our mission for 150 years now – in the past with steam engines, and now with electric vehicles,” said Dr. Michael Fübi, CEO of TÜV Rheinland AG, at the opening ceremony. Dr. Fübi is himself a member of the Expert Council for Electromobility of the State Government of North Rhine-Westphalia.

The focus of activities at the new competence center is on regulatory and manufacturer-specific testing of drive batteries for battery-electric vehicles. The new competence center is integrated in TÜV Rheinland's network of testing centers around the globe. This means that right from the outset, the new team in Aachen can cover the entire value chain for vehicle drive batteries for the industry – from development support through to comprehensive tests and type testing.

The construction time for the test center was around 18 months in total. The battery testing laboratory is operated by TÜV Rheinland Automotive Component Testing GmbH, a cooperation with the commercial service provider ConAC from Aachen. “Innovation in electric vehicle batteries is at an all-time high, which is why independent testing capacities are so important,” said Professor Achim Kampker, head of the Production

Engineering of E-Mobility Components (PEM) Chair at RWTH Aachen University, at the opening of the lab, where, among other things, in-development validation can be performed for manufacturers. “Durability and costs, material use and performance as well as range and recyclability are all key aspects of battery development. The testing services provided at the new test center contribute to not only greater technological reliability but also marketable innovations,” said Professor Kampker. He is one of the world’s leading experts in his field and also a member of the Expert Council for Electromobility of the State Government of North Rhine-Westphalia.

The aim of the activities in the new laboratory center is to comprehensively test all common safety standards required on the market. The initial focus will be on the rapidly growing test market for vehicle drive batteries. In the future, testing services will be extended to include other storage applications.

Demand for testing services continues to grow

The market for battery testing remains highly dynamic, with the number of new battery-electric vehicle (BEV) models rising steadily. New registrations of purely electric vehicles continue to pick up, with 63,000 BEVs newly registered in Germany in 2019 and 194,000 in 2020. In 2021, the figure was already 356,000. According to the European Automobile Manufacturers’ Association (ACEA), there were 878,000 new registrations of electric vehicles in the European Union. And the trend is continuing – with political encouragement and support too. According to the experts at TÜV Rheinland, the need for manufacturer-independent testing capacities for batteries will increase significantly over the coming years.

Further information available from TÜV Rheinland at www.tuv.com/batterylab.

150 years of safety: Since 1872, TÜV Rheinland's mission has been to make technology safe for people and the environment. From the steam engine to digitalization, the erstwhile "Verein zur Überwachung der Dampfkessel in den Kreisen Elberfeld und Barmen" (Association for the Inspection of Steam Boilers in the Districts of Elberfeld and Barmen) has evolved into a global testing service provider ensuring safety and quality in virtually all areas of business and life. This responsibility is now shared by more than 20,000 employees, who generate annual revenues of around EUR 2.1 billion. Around the globe, experts from TÜV Rheinland test technical systems and products, support innovations in technology and industry, train personnel in a wide range of professions, and certify management systems according to international standards. With safety and sustainability, TÜV Rheinland is also shaping the future. Since 2006, TÜV Rheinland has therefore been a member of the United Nations Global Compact to promote sustainability and combat corruption. Website: www.tuv.com