



Charge Pod in Action

original ADS

Introduction



On average, the UK alone records approximately 827,000 breakdown cases because the driver ran out of fuel each year. Omitted from these statistics are people who may have called on friends or family to provide a jerrycan of petrol/diesel and been topped up from the roadside that way. Therefore, in reality, this statistic is far higher. As the country is gearing up to switch from traditional internal combustion engine vehicles to electric, we are now seeing the problem of out-of-charge electric vehicles at the roadside. Despite any improvements we may see with the charging infrastructure, which is still far behind where it needs to be, this statistic demonstrates that people will always run out of charge and require a jerrycan solution for electric vehicles.

We have gathered a range of real-life scenarios where the RAC have attended to electric vehicle drivers who have run out of charge and required an emergency power boost from the Charge Pod system. These examples show both the need for the product and how it is the most suitable solution to this problem.

First-Class Service for Royal Mail



Charge Pod provides the best solution to flat post van during the Coronavirus outbreak in the UK.

The Coronavirus pandemic enhanced our reliance on organisations and services provided by the Royal Mail. Therefore, these services needed to be kept up and running efficiently. Charge Pod played an essential role in making this happen for one member of the postal service.

When just 4 miles away from a Royal Mail depot, the individual was stranded at the roadside because the electric postal van had run out of charge.

The RAC patrol vehicle plugged the electric van into the Charge Pod system and gave the van a 15-mile range, ample to get the driver back to the depot.

Amidst the Coronavirus pandemic, the alternative to the RAC using Charge Pod – sending a flatbed recovery truck – would have used more resources and increased the risk of COVID-19 transmission, given that more people would have been involved in the breakdown. Charge Pod enabled both workers to keep a safe distance from one another whilst the patrol charged the vehicle.

RAC Act as First Responders to Flat Electric Ambulance



London's first electric ambulance was just over a mile from the hospital when it ran out of charge and was left stranded at the roadside. The RAC responded promptly and deployed a patrol vehicle to provide an emergency power boost to the ambulance from the onboard Original ADS Charge Pod system.

Charge Pod was the best solution because other alternatives could have proved problematic. For example, if the RAC sent a van filled with portable batteries, there would only be a limited amount of power available to provide the ambulance with the amount of range needed to enable the vehicle to reach a charging station. This particular ambulance has a large battery (57kWh). Therefore, if you only have a limited power capacity to provide the roadside charge, you cannot guarantee that the vehicle will have enough range to reach a static charging station. In contrast, the Charge Pod system has an engine-mounted generator on the patrol vehicle so that it has a 100% duty cycle meaning it will not run out before the EV has enough charge to reach a charging point.

Furthermore, the RAC has a renowned reputation for fixing 4 out of 5 breakdowns at the roadside. The foundation of this remarkable statistic is because of the capability of the RAC patrol vehicle. Charge Pod has therefore fit seamlessly into the RAC's existing business model and has enhanced the ability of the standard patrol vehicles already in service.

Charge Pod Launches an Attack on Range Anxiety



Charge Pod boosts EV batteries and RAC membership numbers.

The owner of a Mitsubishi I-MIEV was aware of the limited options in the breakdown assistance industry for electric vehicle drivers, especially if they ran out of charge whilst on a journey. Because of this range anxiety, the Mitsubishi driver joined the RAC because they had taken the initiative to address this problem and install the Charge Pod system on several of their standard patrol vehicles.

This RAC customer was delighted to have made the well-informed decision to join the RAC for this service when the inevitable happened. The RAC patrol reported that the Mitsubishi I-MIEV was just 3 miles from a static charging station when it ran out of charge. They provided the vehicle with a 6-mile range, allowing the customer to get to a fixed charging point without the hassle of waiting for a flatbed recovery vehicle to transport the car to a charging station.

Charge Pod provides a quick and easy charging solution for the customer and saves the cost of a recovery vehicle. This small, compact, and reliable system is a fantastic solution to the range anxiety experienced by EV drivers.

3 Charging Stations Later



After recently purchasing a second-hand Nissan LEAF, this EV user thought he had more than enough mileage to reach his nearest static charging station. So, he set off in pursuit, following the guidance of his EV charging map app.

However, when the LEAF driver reached the destination, there was no charging point in sight, so he had no choice but to carry on and drive to another. Becoming increasingly concerned about running out of charge and being stranded at the roadside, the driver just managed to arrive at the second charging station, but, as fortune had it, there was no lead at this station. The driver no longer had enough range to reach a third charging station, so he phoned the RAC for assistance.

The RAC patrol gave the Nissan LEAF a boost from the Charge Pod system providing the EV with a 10-mile range. Still concerned about being unable to reach a functioning static charging station in case of any more misfortunes, the RAC patrol escorted the driver to the nearest charging point. Luckily, this charging station was fully equipped, enabling this EV user to charge his car without further assistance.

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This is innovation at the peak and will transform the EV market as we know it.

UK Business Awards Judges



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