



Press Information

Volvo's hybrids for France and England

Volvo Trucks will deliver four refuse trucks with hybrid power to Veolia Propreté, one of the world's largest companies in refuse handling. Next autumn the four hybrid trucks will commence operations in France and England.

"It is particularly gratifying that Veolia Propreté, an international company renowned for its dedication to green development, wants to be among the very first to harness the benefits of hybrid technology," says Claes Nilsson, President of the Europe division at Volvo Trucks.

Low emissions, low noise levels

The four hybrid refuse trucks are all based on Volvo Trucks' heavy-duty FE model. What mainly differentiates these vehicles from regular refuse trucks is their driveline. The hybrid trucks have both a diesel engine and an electric motor and each power source can be used separately or in combination with the other. Since the electric motor is used when the vehicle is idling and for acceleration, fuel consumption can be cut by 15-20 percent. With the addition of an extra battery featuring a plug-in recharging facility to power the ancillaries, the hybrid refuse trucks can cut a further 10-15 percent off their fuel consumption figures, giving a total fuel reduction of up to 30 percent. Emissions of climate-impacting carbon dioxide are also significantly lower. Electric power gives exhaust-free and almost totally silent operation, a major benefit for refuse trucks that often operate in dense urban areas early in the morning.

Considerable interest

Since April 2008, several field tests have been taking place involving Volvo Trucks' hybrid refuse trucks and the technology is fast approaching the commercialisation phase. Series production start is scheduled for the end of 2009. What is already perfectly clear, however, is that there is considerable interest in the market.

The four refuse trucks are pre-production vehicles that will be delivered by Volvo Trucks complete with all necessary bodywork. The vehicles will be leased by Veolia Propreté on a 24-month contract that covers service, maintenance and continuous software upgrades, among other things.



“We will carefully monitor how the trucks are used and how they are perceived by the drivers. This will provide us with vital information for the ongoing development of our hybrid vehicles,” says Claes Nilsson.

Volvo FE hybrid refuse truck

- 7-litre diesel engine
- Volvo’s I-SAM (Integrated Starter Alternator Motor) hybrid pack featuring starter motor, 120 kW electric propulsion motor, alternator and electronic control unit.
- Lithium-ion batteries that are recharged whenever the brakes are applied and also via the diesel engine.
- Volvo I-Shift, automated gear changing system

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Volvo Trucks provides complete transport solutions for professional and business-driven customers. The company offers a full range of medium to heavy duty trucks, with a strong global network of 3,000 service points in more than 130 countries. In 2007 Volvo Trucks sold more than 100,000 trucks worldwide. Volvo Trucks is a part of the Volvo Group, one of the world's leading manufacturers of trucks, buses and construction equipment, drive systems for marine and industrial applications, aerospace components and services. The Group also provides solutions for financing and service.