



Press information

Considerable media interest in Volvo Trucks' alternative drivelines

Over a period of two weeks, more than 90 journalists from many parts of the world are visiting Volvo Trucks in Göteborg to test drive three of the company's most environmentally optimised vehicles: the Volvo FM MethaneDiesel, Volvo FE Hybrid and Volvo FH DME.

"We want to show the superb quality of these trucks. They are efficient vehicles that also bring us closer to a solution for sustainable transportation," says Lars Mårtensson, Environmental Director at Volvo Trucks.

Normal conditions

Sales of hybrid and methane-diesel trucks got under way this spring on selected markets, while bio-DME (dimethyl ether) is a next-generation fuel that is currently undergoing field tests. The journalists have the opportunity to test the trucks' performance and driveability on roads that reflect the traffic situations experienced by customers in their daily operations. On <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LK8oXN7LMTw> there is a film from one such test drive.

The Volvo FE Hybrid, which is designed primarily for urban distribution and refuse collection operations, is therefore being test driven along a route characterised by frequent stops and starts.

"I'm very impressed. This is the first time I've driven a 20 tonne truck that ran totally silently for more than a kilometre. It's really fascinating, I've never experienced anything like it," says Fabian Schmid of Swiss haulage firm Strassentransport.

Gas-powered trucks for regional transports

Unlike the company's electric hybrid, the Volvo FM MethaneDiesel and DME trucks are built for longer-distance regional operations, making them unique among gas-powered trucks.

"From the driver's viewpoint, I see no disadvantages with methane-diesel," says Ralf Becker from German magazine Lastauto Omnibus as he puts the vehicle through its paces. "The truck is fully loaded, it weighs almost 40 tonnes, yet there's no difference to



driving a conventional diesel. It's as comfortable as any other Volvo truck," he continues.

Alternative drivelines crucial for the future

Despite the new environmentally optimised trucks' excellent performance, a number of challenges still remain: the hybrid's battery technology has further improvement potential, better distribution and more refuelling stations are essential for liquid methane gas, and it is necessary to implement large-scale production of bio-DME.

"It's important, both for us as a company and for other actors throughout the world, to lobby on behalf of alternative fuels and to come up with more solutions that reduce the impact of transport on the climate. This is a crucial issue for an environmentally sustainable society," relates Lars Mårtensson.

Facts: alternative drivelines

Volvo FM MethaneDiesel

- A gas-powered truck tailored for regional distribution and with potential for long-haul operations
- With biogas, it can reduce carbon dioxide emissions by up to 70 percent compared with a conventional diesel engine, or by up to 10 percent when running on natural gas.
- Launched in spring 2011, sales will start in Sweden, the Netherlands and Britain, countries that have the best-developed infrastructure for liquid methane gas.

Volvo FE Hybrid

- A heavy hybrid truck for urban distribution and refuse operations.
- Cuts fuel consumption and carbon dioxide emissions by between 15 and 20 percent, in the refuse sector by up to 30 percent if fitted with an electric refuse compactor.
- On the move, the battery is recharged every time the vehicle is braked.
- Launched in spring 2011 and will be sold in Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark, Britain, France, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg.

Volvo FH DME

- With bio-DME, carbon dioxide emissions are 95% lower than with diesel
- Bio-DME is produced from biomass, for instance from the by-products of the paper manufacturing industry.
- Field tests with ten modified Volvo FH trucks are currently under way.



Captions

1. Lars Mårtensson, Environmental Director at Volvo Trucks.
2. The three environmentally optimised trucks: the Volvo FM MethaneDiesel, Volvo FE Hybrid and Volvo FH DME.
3. Ralf Becker from German magazine Lastauto Omnibus feels that the Volvo FM MethaneDiesel is as efficient and comfortable as any other truck with a Volvo badge.
4. The trucks' function and their construction are both of considerable interest to the assembled journalists.
5. "This is the first time I've driven a 20 tonne truck that ran totally silently for more than a kilometre." The diesel-electric Volvo FE Hybrid impresses Fabian Schmid of Swiss haulage firm Strassentransport.
6. The Volvo FE Hybrid is designed for distribution and refuse collection operations in cities where the traffic rhythm involves frequent stops and starts.
7. With bio-DME carbon dioxide emissions are 95 percent lower than with diesel. The technology is promising but it is still under development.
8. The Volvo FM MethaneDiesel is the first gas-powered truck designed for regional operations.

June 23, 2011

For further information, please contact:

Per Nilsson, Media Relations Europe, phone +46 31 323 3349, e-mail per.nilsson.pr@volvo.com

Visit <http://www.thenewsmarket.com/volvogroup> to access broadcast-standard video about the Volvo Group's various production plants and products. You can download graphic images in the form of MPEG2 files or order them on Beta SP tape. Registration and video are free to the media.

Images are available in the Volvo Trucks image bank <http://imagegallery.vtc.volvo.se/>.

Volvo Trucks provides complete transport solutions for professional and demanding customers. The company offers a full range of medium to heavy duty trucks. Customer support is secured via a global network of 2,300 dealers and workshops in more than 140 countries. Volvo trucks are assembled in 16 countries across the globe. In 2010 more



than 75,000 Volvo trucks were delivered worldwide. Volvo Trucks is 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.