



Press release

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Obrist Group and Circle K Collaborate to Provide Sustainable Liquid Fuel for Road Transport

(Lustenau / Oslo) The Austrian technology company Obrist Group and Global mobility retailer Circle K have signed a letter of intent outlining joint steps to make carbon-neutral or even carbon-negative fuels available to cars, buses, and trucks. Furthermore, the parties intend to demonstrate such fuels by using the HyperHybrid® electric powertrain technology as a realistic and affordable solution for sustainable transportation.

“Obrist and Circle K strongly believe that sustainable liquid fuels are essential to reach international targets for a green road transport sector, replacing fuels made from fossil resources and which contribute to a higher atmospheric CO₂ concentration. It is not only about decarbonization – it’s most importantly about de-fossilization. International emission targets can be reached through a combination of utilizing synthetic fuels in existing combustion engines and employing small combustion engines, such as a serial hybrid powertrain. This approach not only helps to reduce the reliance on large and heavy batteries in all vehicles but also addresses the supply issues arising from the unavailability of raw materials required for their production,” says Thorsten Rixmann, The Global Director Marketing & Communications from Obrist Group.

Obrist Group has revolutionised the fuel industry with its groundbreaking OBRIST DAC technology, paving the way for the production of aFuel®—the world's first CO₂-negative aMethanol®. This innovative solution utilizes a cost-effective and energy-efficient direct air capture process, leading to the creation of a synthetic fuel that significantly reduces atmospheric CO₂ concentration. The patented process is already competitive and can be scaled as required using state-of-the-art technologies and sub-processes, enabling the development of large-scale systems. In co-operation with AVL, Obrist has also developed a high-efficiency engine, **Zero-Vibration-Generator**, which can be used as a generator in serial-hybrid vehicles and run on pure aMethanol® (M100).

Circle K has more than 14 000 service stations globally, 2 700 in Europe. To stay relevant to our customers and contribute to a more sustainable world, Circle K has taken an active position to pursue business opportunities within alternative fuels such as biofuels, high-speed charging, and electro fuels such as synthetic methanol/e-methanol. Being able to reuse available infrastructure globally is a prerequisite for a swift and affordable transition to sustainable mobility taking the whole life cycle perspective into account. In this time of change, it is important that we keep different technology solutions open as long as they may contribute to the substitution of fossil fuels.

Common initiatives

Our agreement identifies four areas of cooperation.

1. Fuel offtake, distribution, and retail.

Obrist Group now offers their technology licenses to companies planning to build aMethanol® plants. Circle K could be interested in acting as a full or partial buyer of such volumes. Circle K can trade e-methanol on the market and develop user solutions in collaboration with its B2B customers.

2. Passenger vehicle demonstration.

EU legislation should open for combustion engine cars in the future, provided they run on sustainable fuel. Obrist Group and Circle K would like to demonstrate in live projects how this can be done.

3. Heavy duty vehicle demonstration.

CO₂ regulation for heavy duty vehicles is currently being developed in the EU. Obrist Group and Circle K agree that allowing heavy-duty vehicles to be powered by combustion engines and hybrid solutions is paramount to secure all transportation needs. Consequently, the parties intend to seek participation in demo projects to show how both fueling and driving can be done safely, cleanly, efficiently, and sustainably.

4. Communication.

The parties believe in the value of keeping an open communication profile towards the public and to warrant that political authorities make informed decisions about the possibilities for carbon neutral/ negative fuels like e-methanol / aMethanol® and its favorable properties.

“We see great opportunities in sustainable fuel technology and the existing global network of gas stations. The established infrastructure for fuel storage and distribution globally, in combination with the combustion engine are huge and valuable assets on the path to sustainability if we do it right,” says Sjur Haugen, Director Quality and Product Development at Circle K.

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About Obrist

OBRIST Group is a pioneer in developing innovations to reduce emissions within areas such as heat pump compressors, powertrain systems, and CO₂-negative fuels. The organization offers engineering services, know-how transfer, and licensing, with over 500 patents worldwide. www.obrist.at

About Circle K

Circle K is a part of Couche-Tard, a global leader in convenience and fuel retail, operating in 24 countries and territories, with more than 14,000 stores, of which approximately 10,700 offer road transportation fuel. <https://corpo.couche-tard.com/en>