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The mini refueling station for homes of GNV are more and more successful in France

Showcased in an exhibit during the 2007 Gas Conference in Paris held last month were a CNG (compressed natural gas) mini refueling station for homes, which were one of the main attractions of the conference.

France, like several other european countries, has decided to go full blast in the promotion of natural gas use not only for power generation but also for transport fuel.

Unlike Germany, Italy, Switzerland and Austria, France does not have a chain of public pump stations for natural gas, although oil companies and distributors committed to install at least 300 natural gas filling stations between now and 2010.

Gaz de France started offering home natural gas packages, but only to customers whose houses were connected to existing natural gas network. The mini gas refueling unit is not even for sale. It is leased to customers by the company.

The mini station -which compresses the gas to 200 bar, equivalent to the pressure of air in a scuba diver's air cylinder- may be installed by trained personnel in a private garage, garden or driveway.

It is checked regularly by technicians, and is guaranteed by Gaz de France.

Once the unit is set up, fixed to a wall and connected to the gas network, all the customer needs to do is to connect the loading nozzle to the car and press the "on" button. It automatically stops operating when the tank is full.

A 50-km drive will need about three hours of refueling.

A customer pays a basic monthly charge of 29 euros for the equipment and home refueling service, plus the cost of the gas consumed.

Under the Gaz de France package, natural gas fuel costs 0.58 euro per cubic meter, equivalent to a liter of 98 octane super gasoline.

This, according to the company, is about 50 percent less than the price of gasoline and 40 percent lower than that of diesel.



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