BYD to launch fleet of 100 electric taxis in Singapore by first quarter of 2017

- E-taxi trial is part of Singapore’s Electric Vehicle (EV) Phase 2 Test-bed to explore fleet-based EV operations

Singapore, 25 July 2016 - HDT Singapore Taxi Pte Ltd will launch a fleet of fully-electric taxis in Singapore as part of an e-taxi trial by the first quarter of 2017. The fleet of 100 e6 electric saloon cars is provided by BYD, the world’s largest manufacturer of rechargeable batteries and electric vehicles (EVs).

2 HDT plans to begin operating its taxi service starting in the first week of September, with all 100 e-taxis to be progressively deployed by the first quarter of 2017. To support its operations, HDT will implement the necessary charging infrastructure that will comply with Singapore’s national charging standard. This Type 2 charging standard, which allows for normal and semi-fast charging of EVs, will enable BYD’s e6 cars to be fully charged within approximately 1.5 hours. HDT’s charging points are aligned with the government’s efforts to grow the EV charging infrastructure in Singapore.

3 HDT’s e-taxi trial is part of Singapore’s EV Phase 2 Test-bed co-led by the Land Transport Authority (LTA) and Economic Development Board (EDB), which is aimed at exploring fleet-based operations such as EV car-sharing and electric taxi fleets.

4 According to findings published in the E-Mobility Technology Roadmap for Singapore, fleet vehicles such as public buses and taxis offer the biggest potential for electrification. Although taxis fleets account for only 3 per cent of Singapore’s overall vehicle population today, they hold the highest annual mileage per vehicle. An electric taxi fleet, which have zero tail-pipe emissions and are quieter than vehicles with internal combustion engines, will have the potential to reduce air and noise pollution.

5 HDT’s e-taxi service, which will operate for eight years, will give LTA and EDB the opportunity to study whether new EV business models are viable for Singapore’s land transport network.

6 HDT will also test a new employer-employee business model, in which their drivers are full-time employees entitled to benefits under the Singapore Employment Act. This is different from the traditional model of leasing out taxis to drivers for a fee. It will also continue to operate its private-hire service with its existing fleet of 30 EVs, which has accumulated a total mileage about 3 million kilometres, equivalent to the reduction of around 1,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions since the operation started from December 2014.
Positioning Singapore as a Leader in E-mobility

As part of the e-taxi trial in Singapore, which has been supported through the government’s Technology Innovation and Development Scheme\(^1\) (TIDES-PLUS), BYD will undertake new high-value economic activities in Singapore comprising its Southeast Asia headquarters and Research & Development (R&D) centre.

Leveraging its fleet of e-taxis and network of charging stations operating in a real-life environment, BYD’s R&D team will undertake research collaboration with local research institutes in areas such as energy management and driver behaviour studies.

“With its strong research capabilities, good talent and a growing electro-mobility ecosystem, Singapore is an ideal location to pilot our e-taxi fleet and conduct technological development. From Singapore, we hope to co-create new and innovative solutions which we can commercialise to the region,” said Mr. Wang Chuanfu, Chairman of BYD Group.

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\(^1\) The TIDES PLUS scheme is jointly administered by EDB and LTA. The scheme waives all vehicle taxes such as Additional Registration Fees (ARF), Certificate of Entitlement (COE), road tax and excise duty, for the purposes of R&D and test-bedding of transport technologies.
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About BYD

BYD Company Ltd. is one of China’s largest companies to have successfully expanded globally. Specialising in battery technologies, their green mission to “solve the whole problem” has made them industry pioneers and leaders in several high-tech sectors including High-efficiency Automobiles, Electrified Public Transportation, Environmentally-Friendly Energy Storage, Affordable Solar Power and Information Technology and Original Design Manufacturing (ODM) services.

As the world’s largest manufacturer of rechargeable batteries, their mission to create safer and more environmentally friendly battery technologies has led to the development of the BYD Iron Phosphate (or “Fe”) Battery. This fire-safe, completely recyclable and incredibly long-cycle technology has become the core of their clean energy platform that has expanded into automobiles, buses, trucks, utility vehicles and energy storage facilities. BYD and all of their shareholders, including American Investor Warren Buffett, see these environmentally and economically forward products as the way of the future.

BYD has made a strong entrance to the North, Central and South American markets with their battery electric buses, and lineup of automobiles. Their mission lies not just in sales growth, but also in sociological integration and local job creation as they have poured incredible investments into developing offices, dealerships and manufacturing facilities in the local communities they now call home, truly a first for Chinese companies. For more information, please visit www.byd.com or www.facebook.com/bydcompany.
About HDT

HDT Singapore Holding Pte Ltd, an associated company of BYD, was established in 2013. Its recently set-up subsidiary, HDT Singapore Taxi Pte Ltd, will take charge of the upcoming e-taxi fleet operation and become the first full e-taxi fleet operator in Southeast Asia.

For taxi drivers who are interested to join HDT Singapore Taxi, please call the hotline number 62588888.