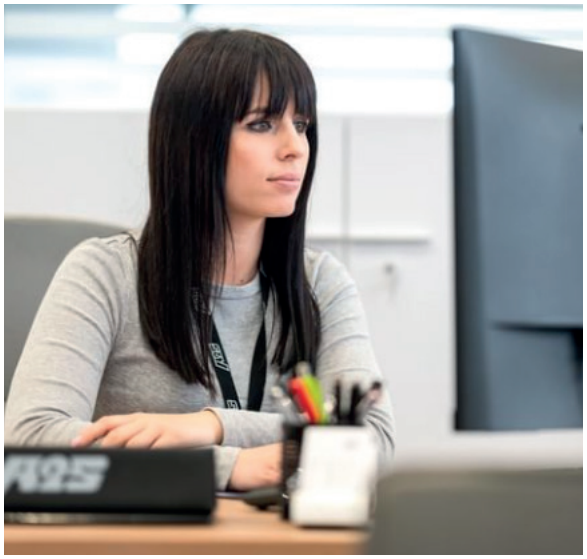
ELECTRICAL VEHICLES: THE POINT OF VIEW OF A CAR RETAIL

INTERVIEW WITH DRAGANA ATANACKOIVIĆ

Interview by Solski Center Celje

CASE STUDY: USE OF ELECTRICAL VEHICLES

Dragana Atanacković is sales manager in A2S, which is one of the biggest cars retailer in Slovenia.



In 2022, 10.5 million electric vehicles were registered in EU countries, of which 8.6 million were passenger cars. This is a 32 percent increase compared to 2021. The largest electric vehicles using countries in the EU, as a share of total passenger car registrations, are: Norway (90.9%), Sweden (76.7%) and The Netherlands (60.7%).

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF DRIVING AN ELECTRIC CAR?

There are a number of benefits of driving an electric car. Firstly, there is emission-free driving, which has led to an increase in electric car sales in the first place. It is designed to reduce the release of greenhouse and other harmful gases into the atmosphere.
Another is energy efficiency - electric vehicles use energy better to move around, so they use less electricity per kilometre. They are quieter, which means they help to reduce noise pollution in big cities. Maintenance costs are also lower, with no need for frequent servicing as with diesel or petrol vehicles, as there are no filters, oil, etc.
Regenerative braking is also an important advantage, where the electric vehicle converts kinetic energy into electrical energy through automatic braking, ultimately increasing the range of the electric vehicle. This is not possible with internal combustion vehicles.
Another advantage that we, who are in the business of selling electric vehicles, see - is fast charging - not all vehicles have this option if you go on a journey and stop at a fast charging station. Here, the vehicle is charged within 40 minutes up to 80%.
You can see the progress and continuous improvements in the range of electric vehicles and battery capacity or battery utilisation. I would highlight these as advantages.

DO WE HAVE ANY INCENTIVES/SUBSIDIES IN SLOVENIA OR IN THE EU FOR THE PURCHASE OF ELECTRIC VEHICLES?

Of course, so I would highlight this as an advantage for deciding to buy an electric vehicle. In Slovenia, Ekosklad offers a subsidy for the purchase of these vehicles, especially for private individuals. The amount varies between 4500€ and 6500€, depending on the price of the vehicle. If the car costs less than 35.000€, the individual is entitled to 6500€, and 4500€ if the cost is more, with a price cap of 65.000€.
As regards legal persons, I would point out that they can charge tax on the purchase of the vehicle, so the State will reimburse them. In Europe, other countries are also the most exposed, most notably Norway, Denmark and Germany, which subsidise the purchase of electric vehicles in a similar way to Slovenia.

WHAT IS THE MAINTENANCE OF ELECTRIC VEHICLES COMPARED TO CONVENTIONAL VEHICLES?

I would point out the ease of maintenance - in terms of the electric motor, these are less complex than those of internal combustion vehicles. There are fewer wear parts, there is less wear, some vehicles do not have gearboxes at all. As for the battery, its capacity is constantly monitored, and the most important thing is the cooling of the battery. This needs to be maintained regularly and, by ensuring that the battery is properly cooled, the battery's life is extended.
As I mentioned earlier: there is no oil and no oil filters, so these services are not necessary, and I have already mentioned regenerative braking, where the brakes wear significantly less because the vehicle brakes automatically.

HOW DOES THE ELECTRIC VEHICLE CONTRIBUTE TO A CLEANER ENVIRONMENT?

It is difficult to talk about exact figures, but they contribute to 50% less carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions, which are extremely problematic. Electric vehicles also contribute to less emissions of particulate matter into the atmosphere. However, as I have already said, it is time that will tell how much electric vehicles contribute to a cleaner environment, because there are still too few electric vehicles on our roads to be able to assess this accurately.

The European Union has set a target to ban the sale of new vehicles with internal combustion engines by 2035, which is likely to accelerate the transition to electric vehicles.