



## Islander November 2011 Technology Update

### What will the future bring?

The future seems to be doom and gloom these days, especially in the financial world, and especially when it comes to debt, whether over used personal credit cards, local government debt, euro country economies or even super power economies. Reading and listening about it and the arguments on how to solve it are justifiably dull. Today, as I write this the world population will pass 7 billion and very scarily it has doubled in the last 50 years! I find that difficult to believe.

So to counter these miseries have a read about what is considerably more important "tomorrows technology". This is what we are gearing ourselves up for over the next few decades.

### **Electric cars, but more specifically charging points.**

Electric cars are here and are here to stay but their adoption is restricted by lack of charging points. In July there was an announcement that free solar powered charging points are going to be installed at every Welcome break service station across the length and breadth of the UK. What a brilliant plan to kick start the adoption of electric cars.

Free to use, the solar-powered 'top-up' stations are already at 29 Welcome Break services. Previously, the main barrier for people wanting to buy electric cars was the lack of range.

Dale Vince, the founder of Ecotricity, the firm behind the network, said: 'Until now, charging posts have all been in city centres like London, but this is where you need them the least. Statistics show that it's not in towns and cities where electric cars need to recharge, but on longer journeys between cities - and that means motorways.'

Each charging post will be powered with 100 per cent green energy made at Ecotricity's wind and solar parks across Britain.

The posts will be located outside the main entrance, with two sockets that can be accessed by registering for a free swipecard. Obviously while the car is charging up you can enjoy a meal in the Welcome Break restaurant.

Electric cars can top-up in just 20 minutes using rapid recharge points with a 32A supply or fully charge in two hours. Those using the slower 13A supply will be able to recharge fully if staying overnight at motorway service hotels.

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Within 18 months all Welcome Break motorway services will have charging points.

Electric car drivers, and motorcycle riders, will then be able to drive from across Britain completely free and with vastly reduced emissions.

It obviously makes sense with rising world oil prices and scarcity of fossil fuels it's now possible to get around Britain using only the power of the sun and the wind. It costs 1c a kilometre in an electric vehicle, compared with 10c in a petrol car.

### **Also in Mallorca....**

As you may have seen, whilst driving along the Paseo in Palma, that in 2010, Sol Meliá, opened one of the first smart battery charging stations for electric cars at the Gran Meliá Victoria hotel.

N2S, a company that specializes in providing intelligent buildings, was responsible for the installation of a battery charging station called POWER2DRIVE in the car park. The system identifies the vehicle, authorises the service and notifies the user by e-mail or SMS when the charge is completed.

At the Gran Meliá Victoria the initiative strengthens the commitment of the City Council in the "Palma, responsible tourism" project, which aims to improve the competitiveness of the city, promote responsible tourism, and publicise the importance of tourism as a driver of development.

In the case of the Balearic Islands, it also responds to a growing demand for electric cars, expected to surpass 7,500 in the islands by 2015, due to the development of the rental car market and the fact that the islands are ideal for this type of vehicle given their size.

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