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Volkswagen joins IEA's Task 53 to accelerate interoperability in the V2G ecosystem

Task 53, an initiative of the Electric Vehicle Technology Collaboration Programme within the International Energy Agency (IEA), is taking a strategically important step: Volkswagen AG is joining as the first vehicle manufacturer to partner with Task 53. The international consortium, backed by 15 Countries, aims to achieve full multi-party interoperability for bidirectional charging between electric vehicles (EVs), charging infrastructure, and power grids. Volkswagen's commitment underscores the importance of Task 53 in advancing sustainable mobility and supporting the global transition to smart, bidirectional charging.

Why Volkswagen is joining Task 53 as a consortium partner

Since 2024, Volkswagen has been equipping all its ID.-platform-based EVs with factory-enabled bidirectional charging. Requirements include a battery capacity of at least 77 kWh and installation of software version 3.5 or higher. Currently, bidirectional charging takes place via ISO 15118-2 in combination with VAS (Value Added Services), ensuring stable but proprietary communication between vehicles and charging stations.

As one of the world's leading automotive manufacturers, Volkswagen recognizes that broad adoption of bidirectional charging depends on robust interoperability between vehicles, chargers, and grids. By joining Task 53, Volkswagen aims to remove existing and newly identified interoperability obstacles—uncovered during intensive testing within Task 53 and its partner laboratories. These "bugs & gaps" currently hinder interoperability and limit the economic viability and scalability of Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G) solutions.

To support this global vision, Volkswagen is also contributing to the nationally funded project BI-CCS (www.bi-ccs.de), where the communication protocol is being upgraded from version -2 to version -20. Within Task 53, Volkswagen can now help ensure that this upgrade supports the necessary interoperability and that the insights gained from BI-CCS feed into an international network.

Volkswagen's Vision

Volkswagen's participation in Task 53 aligns with its broader vision of integrating electric vehicles into the energy system to support grid stability and unlock new revenue streams for customers and partners alike.

A Call to Other OEMs

Bidirectional charging is currently shaped by proprietary approaches, which prevent fast and economically viable V2G scale-up. Through Task 53, OEMs, EVSEs, and DSOs are working on a shared, future-proof standard solution instead of fragmented "island" systems. A joint approach significantly reduces development time, time to market, and resource demands. Collaboration between OEMs, EVSE manufacturers, and distribution system operators (DSOs) leads to market-ready, globally compatible V2G solutions and strengthens competitiveness.

In short: Contributing to interoperability accelerates the rollout of smart energy solutions — efficiently, economically, and with customer focus. Task 53 aims to bring two to three more OEMs on board.

About Task 53

Task 53 is an international, non-profit initiative under the umbrella of the IEA Electric Vehicle Technology Collaboration Programme (IEA EV TCP). It brings together leading industry players, utilities, test laboratories, and public institutions to drive the scalable, multi-party interoperable deployment of bidirectional charging — Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G), Vehicle-to-Home (V2H), and Vehicle-to-Building (V2B) — worldwide, whether via DC, AC, or wireless interfaces.

Task 53 focuses on the ISO 15118-20 protocol, including requirements for distributed energy resources (DER), and supports all conductive connector types as well as inductive charging. The initiative ensures practical implementation of grid codes through the active involvement of DSOs. Comprehensive conformance and multi-party interoperability testing is carried out in leading laboratories in Europe (EU JRC Ispra, DEKRA), the United States (Argonne National Laboratories), and South Korea (KERI).

About Volkswagen

The Volkswagen Group is one of the world's leading automobile manufacturers and is pursuing an ambitious electrification strategy. Under its strategic umbrella "Way to Zero", Volkswagen aims to increase the share of fully electric vehicles to at least 70% in Europe and over 50% globally by 2030, with a clear roadmap toward CO₂ neutrality by 2050.

Contact

Marco Piffaretti

Task 53 Operating Agent
c/o novatlantis gmbh | Technoparkstrasse 1 | 8005 Zürich | +41 79 620 30 28



marco.piffaretti@task53.org | task53.org