

Viridian EPCs on tour in France

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The France Electric Tour 2016 route

Less than a month ago a number of keen Electric Vehicle advocates achieved a cross-country tour, travelling from Paris to Cagnes-sur-Mer, and taking a range of EVs a total of 1200 km in 4 days. An average of 300 km / day.

The [France Electric Tour 2016](#) objectives:

- Demonstrate the EV is capable of daily mileages that are adequate for many needs
- Demonstrate the need for further deployment of multi-standard DC charging infrastructure to allow more rapid charges
- Demonstrate the the need for a charging infrastructure that is interoperable



This year's eco-rally organised by [TVE](#) was a fairly large affair with about 17 different organisations bringing 20 EVs, including the Nissan Leaf & ENV-200, Kia Soul EV, Tesla Model S and Renault Zoe to join the adventure. Charging logistics was high on the agenda for this event and it was interesting to learn that they opted to stop at every service station with DC rapid-charging capability along the highway instead of when they needed to - here they would charge each car for 6 mins, getting a quick top up of energy, before moving off again. This avoided longer waiting times had they chosen to stop every 3rd or 4th service station and had to charge for longer. It sounded like a very thought out plan, with overnight charging made available through grid hookups provided by ERDF.



Mark's 3 x 7kW chargers with Viridian EPCs inside!

Tasked with organising and implementing the overnight charging was Mark Nitters of [AVEM](#), a participant and partner of the tour. There were to be 3 x 32A 3-phase supplies at each location and Mark's idea was to have 2 boxes with 3 x 1-phase sockets (one on each phase) and one box with 2 x 3-phase sockets (the load balanced between them). Here's where Mark turned to us to provide charge controllers for the 2 single phase boxes (pictured right). Six of our [EVSE Protocol Controllers](#) in total would be built into custom boxes, providing the communications to control a charging session for 6 vehicles from 2 power sources! (Seen in use in the photos below)

These boxes were successfully used again on the [Vendee Energy Tour 2016](#) at the beginning of this month and are set to make another appearance during the Tour Poitou-Charente in September.

An interesting project put to use at some great events promoting cleaner driving in France!

