

bluesummer

The first Aïcha des Gazelles electric run ends in success for Bluesummer

From 16 to 31 March, four Bluesummer electric cabriolets belonging to the Bolloré Group and a Citroën E-MEHARI, all equipped with LMP® (Lithium Metal Polymer), participated in the very first 100% electric Aïcha des Gazelles rally in Morocco. This first experience was a success thanks to the vehicles and to their technology perfectly suited to desert conditions.

For the first time this year, the Aïcha des Gazelles rally - a female-oriented race in the Moroccan desert - launched its very first 100% electric stage: the E-Gazelles run. In order to undertake this unprecedented race, the rally focussed on the Bluesummer and the E-MEHARI most particularly because of their LMP® batteries. Designed and manufactured by Blue Solutions, a Bolloré Group affiliate, this French-made, fully solid battery is devoid of solvent, rare-earth and cobalt, offering a **very high security level** which is ideal for this competition (insensitive to temperature variations and intense heat).

After the rally's official launch in Nice on Friday 16 March, the vehicles crossed Spain, then the Strait of Gibraltar before starting the competition at the heart of the Moroccan desert that following Thursday. Consequently, the five crews safely travelled all 1500 kilometres, divided into six stages designed for electric vehicles. After a week of daily challenges, each 8 to 11 hours long, the participants took part in the closing event on the Essaouira beach this past Friday.

The Bluesummer vehicles and the E-MEHARI responded very well to the sandy desert landscape despite the region's difficult weather conditions: strong winds and dust. The Blue Solutions' LMP® batteries proved yet again their performance and resistance to temperature variations, which can vary from 0 to 40°C within a day in the Moroccan desert. Furthermore, their autonomy allowed all the crews to successfully finish this first edition of the E-Gazelles run.

At the end of the race, the five crews expressed their satisfaction and pride for having shared this unique experience, both responsible and respectful of the environment. Natacha Bordy, member of the No. 503 crew and winner of the 2018 E-Gazelles, was surprised by the autonomy: "we always arrived with 20 to 30% of autonomy left, even after stages that were over 100 kilometres long." Clothilde Hamion, the pilot adds that "she was very pleasantly surprised" and "astonished by its unexpected capabilities which make the Bluesummer easy to handle and reactive."

The founder of Solutions-ve and owner of the vehicles, Fabien Lagier, is for his part satisfied with this experience and with the partnership with the Bolloré Group: "it's a great success! The cars are sturdy and have a good autonomy."

The feedback from the rally's five crews and technical teams, from Blue Solutions and Blue Car, is encouraging for both the future of electric racing and LMP® technology.

Blue Solutions is proud to have contributed to this unique Aïcha des Gazelles rally adventure by bringing technical support to this first electric run. Expert in clean mobility solutions and energy storage, the Bolloré Group affiliate fully endorses this action and wishes to contribute to the development and expansion of the next editions of the E-Gazelle run.

About Blue Solutions:

Publicly traded since October 30, 2013, Blue Solutions is the company that manages the electrical storage operations developed by the Bolloré group. By diversifying its historical business of producing paper and ultrathin plastic film, the Bolloré group has become a producer of complete electrical components for capacitors, and now holds over one-third of the global market. With this expertise and 20 years of R&D, the group has engineered electrical storage solutions and batteries that rely on a unique technology, the LMP® (Lithium Metal Polymer) battery as well as supercapacitor technology. The batteries are employed both in mobile applications (electric vehicles) as well as stationary ones (storing electricity for individuals, businesses, local governments, etc.) developed and sold by other group entities through Blue Applications, which since 2011 has been rapidly growing on every continent.

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