

Meralco powers sustainable energy solutions in transportation

Brings the first Electric Vehicle Power Station in Bonifacio Global City



IN PHOTO, (from L — R) The Net Group (TNG) Executive VP Raymond Rufino, TNG President Carlos Rufino, Meralco SVP and Head of Customer Retail Services & Corporate Communications Alfredo Panlilio and Fort Bonifacio Development Corporation (FBDC) VP and Head of Commercial Operations Manny Blas II.

Aligned with its goal of pioneering innovative energy solutions, Meralco partnered with property developer The Net Group in bringing the first Electric Vehicle (EV) Power Station at booming business district BGC. Two charging bays were installed at the Net Lima - the country's first certified green building under the local rating system Building for Ecologically Responsive Design Excellence (BERDE).

The Meralco-designed charging station is a mobile facility which can be deployed to any location, especially where EVs most frequently park or pass. Its weatherproof design includes a rust-proof body, fully-enclosed meter display and waterproof keypad facility that allows it to run smoothly in both covered and open spaces. The equipment is flexible with regard to its source of power, whether from the electric grid or renewable sources.



A Meralco Charging Pod provides power to Net Lima EV users.

Meralco EV Power Station also has the capability to recognize when the battery is full and will automatically cut off the flow of electricity. An LCD display shows the rate per kWh, the total watt-hour/kWh consumed, and the equivalent peso amount. The unit height is ergonomically measured to maximize readability of the LCD display and provides easy access to the keypad and twist-lock connector.

Meralco sought the services of its subsidiary, MServ, for the construction of the EV Power Station, which is now installed and fully operational in Net Lima's covered parking area.



The Net Group Executive Vice President Raymond Rufino said having Meralco's EV Power Station in Net Lima highlights their thrust towards sustainability.

At the recent unveiling of the EV Power Station, top executives from Meralco partner companies The Net Group, (TNG) Fort Bonifacio Development Corporation (FBDC) and Mitsubishi Motors Philippines gathered to launch the newest green initiative. Guests from companies located in Net Lima Building also heralded enthusiasm for the project.

Collaborations reinforce green agenda

Philippine Green Building Council (PhilGBC) Chairman and TNG Executive Vice President Raymond Rufino said that the installation of Meralco EV Power Station in Net Lima highlighted the property development's thrust towards sustainability.

Net Lima is a pilot project for BERDE rating system, the Philippines' counterpart to the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) rating of the US. The LEED green building certification system is a globally-accepted, third-party rating program for the design, construction and operation of sustainable buildings. But it was studied that LEED is not applicable to the Philippines' weather condition, rulings, best practices and other realities, thus resulting to PhilGBC's creation of BERDE.

According to Rufino, "One of the things we wanted to do was to help push electric vehicles in the Philippines. It takes partnerships like the one we have with Meralco to try and push it by creating the infrastructure. Our big hope is that in the coming years, we'll be able to see more electric vehicles come to the roads of the Philippines."

Rufino also announced that for the first 1-2 years, the EV Power Station in Net Lima is free to use, "This is our way to incentivize the market to use electric vehicles."

In a statement of support for sustainability and efficiency in transportation, Mitsubishi Motors Philippines also brought its latest Outlander Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV) model for a test charge during the EV Power Station launch.

According to Mitsubishi Philippines Marketing Services Senior Supervisor Ricky John Santos, the new hybrid model is 50% more fuel and cost-efficient compared to conventional vehicles that run on fuel alone. More importantly, it lessens carbon emissions and brings in a more eco-friendly means of transportation.

"Our company advocates more environment-friendly vehicles like electric vehicles or plug-in hybrid electric vehicles. This will need a lot of support, not only from vehicle distributors, but also from other infrastructure-builders like Meralco, as the provider of electricity, and also from the government," said Santos.

Innovations power the future

During the unveiling ceremony, FBDC VP and Head of Commercial Operations Manny Blas II congratulated the pioneers of the project, "I think it's a big step, and more importantly, a big statement- that you're willing to explore new initiatives in better transportation, and you're also saying that you're willing to put your money where your faith is, by starting this. You're also saying that you're always pushing the envelope, always starting a trend or movement for people to start thinking differently."

The EV Power Station underscores Meralco's charge towards national progress, highlighting sustainable transportation. Meralco has been constantly pushing for EVs - the company has its own EV Power Station in its office grounds and utilizes EVs to shuttle employees and guests around its compound.

Alfredo S. Panlilio, SVP and Head of Customer Retail Services and Corporate Communications of Meralco said, "We want to lead in building the complete ecosystem for the expected influx of EVs. We've embarked on the 'intelligent grid' journey to modernize our network and make it responsive to what customers want—adoption of renewable energy sources, flexibility for electric vehicles, and providing customer information through the internet. Meralco, with the help of policy makers and regulators, hopes to be in step with the needs of the Filipino people."

This, according to Panlilio, is part of a bigger mandate for Meralco to bring to life a bright and energy-smart future, "Meralco aims to celebrate 2021, the quincentennial or 500th year of the discovery of the Philippine Islands by the western world, as the year when all the technologies we are exploring today, and many more, will be fully operational and improving the lives and livelihoods of millions of our customers," he said.

For more collaborations with Meralco, call the Meralco Business Hotline at 16210 or visit www.meralco.com.ph/corporatepartners.



The first Meralco Electric Vehicle Power Station in Bonifacio Global City is now fully operational in Net Lima Building.