

Roundup: News and innovation in EVs in Q3

Article

Mercedes-Benz and Rivian collaborate on commercial vans: Partnerships in the EV space continue with traditional automakers seeking EV startups to help accelerate adoption. A joint venture unites **Mercedes-Benz** and **Rivian** to build vans in Europe, [per](#) CNBC.

- “We are sharing investments and technology [with Rivian] because we also share the same strategic ambition: accelerating the electrification of the van market with sustainable and superior products for our customers,” said **Mathias Geisen**, head of Mercedes’ commercial van unit.

- The partnership will yield results in 2025 starting with a next-generation version of a light van it developed for **Amazon**.

Harbinger develops a versatile platform for delivery EVs: California-based startup **Harbinger** is setting its sights on delivery vehicles with its new chassis for battery-electric Class 4 to Class 7 medium-duty vehicles, [per](#) Forbes.

- Harbinger's key innovation is the **eAxle**, which combines the motor, inverter, and gearbox into a replaceable integrated unit. A floating beam could generate 15% improvement in energy efficiency over the incumbent solutions in the industry.
- The company intends to make its EV truck chassis available to trucking companies. “Our cost-basis for battery packs is anywhere from 50% to 80% lower than other companies in the trucking space that are buying full packs,” said CEO **John Harris**.
- Harbinger is looking to pilot tests in mid to late 2023, and deliveries to customers will begin in 2024.

Tesla opens up voting for chargers: While there’s no shortage of EV news and new models, the supporting (and necessary) charging infrastructure seems to be slow to catch up. **Tesla**, which leads the market with Superchargers, is putting future charging locations to a vote, [per](#) Electrek.

- Unsurprisingly, Tesla is allowing people to vote on new Supercharger locations via **Twitter**. Responses to [the tweet](#) will be included in a poll to determine which locations make the most sense.
- With the shift to EVs involving more than just passenger cars, some allowances will need to be made for vehicles of various sizes. Tesla might need to design more flexible charging stations for larger vehicles like **Cybertrucks** and delivery vans.

Jeep is pivoting to all-electric SUVs: **Jeep** is leaning into EVs by announcing it will “[electrify](#)” all of its models in the US.

- “The BEV acceleration is going full speed,” said Jeep CEO **Christian Meunier**.
- The company previewed two fully electric SUVs, the Wrangler-inspired **Jeep Recon** and an electric **Wagoneer**. Both are expected to arrive in North America by 2024.
- Jeep is aspiring to become the No. 1 [seller](#) of electric SUVs in the world, Pivoting its popular models and lines to all-electric is certain to spur competition in the SUV space.

Wrap-up: The recent EV news shifts focus from passenger cars to the development of trucks, SUVs, and service vehicles, as well as plans for ways to increase range and improve infrastructure.

- The EV industry and adjacent businesses are growing as consumers become more open to the idea of switching to electric vehicles.
- 2024 will be the watershed moment for the transition to EVs in the US, with various models from popular car manufacturers coming to market. Hopefully, a more sustainable charging infrastructure will be available to support the shift.

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