

## Nippon Oil Corporation and the Orix Auto Corporation to Begin a Co-operative Experimental Electric Vehicle (EV) Sharing Project

Nippon Oil Corporation (Head Office: Minato-ku, Tokyo, President: Shinji Nishio) and the Orix Auto Corporation (Head Office: Minato-ku, Tokyo, President: Eiji Mitani) will commence a co-operative experimental car sharing project using electric vehicles (hereinafter “EVs”) on October 15, 2009. This project forms part of Nippon Oil Corporation’s ENEOS EV Charge Station Project.

This project names three ENEOS service stations (hereinafter “SS’ s”), Dr. Drive Kosugi, Dr. Drive Shirogane and Dr. Drive Toriyama with Quick Chargers installed, as the bases for the experimental car sharing service. We will ascertain the viability of SS-based EV sharing services through this project. The Orix Auto Corporation, a car sharing business operator, will manage the EVs used in this project and the supply of information targeting potential new customers.

Considering the emphasis on shifting to lower carbon emissions, Nippon Oil Corporation will assess the feasibility of new businesses of SS’ s that are able to function efficiently as infrastructure offering not only the supply of environmentally-friendly EVs and energy but also car maintenance services in combination with car sharing services for which has been growing rapidly.

In addition to this project, Nippon Oil Corporation will place Quick Chargers in 22 SS’ s nationwide through its ENEOS EV Charge Station Project. In addition to the EV sharing service, EVs will be loaned to survey participants and the quick charge service will be available to both survey participants and general EV users. Furthermore, additional services such as car washes and inspections will be available to customers waiting for the charging process to be completed. In this manner, we will ascertain the viability of SS services targeting EV users.

The Orix Auto Corporation entered the car sharing business in 2002. Although EVs\*<sup>1</sup> were initially used for business operations, these vehicles were replaced by gasoline powered vehicles starting in 2007 because of expanding business resulting in an increased number of stores and vehicles. In the course of making the shift from EVs to gasoline powered vehicles, the company discovered a number of issues in the use of EVs such as the lack of power charging infrastructure and problems derived from using batteries. However, through this co-operative experimental project, the company is reintroducing EVs at one of its stores, Petit Renta, on the project start date, targeting the areas in the vicinity of Tokyo Station\*<sup>2</sup>.

Nippon Oil Corporation and the Orix Auto Corporation are committed to taking environmental issues seriously, including global warming, while undertaking their own environmental initiatives in their business activities and supporting customers engaged in environmental conservation efforts.

\*1 The EV models used from 2002 to 2006: Hypermini (Nissan Motor Co., Ltd.) and Every EV (Suzuki Motor Corporation).

\*2 Location: Marunouchi Kajibashi Parking Lot (address: 3-8-2, Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan) with a Quick Charger located on the premises.