



Austria turns phone boxes into car recharging stations 奧地利公用電話亭 改成電動車充電站

If you've run out of juice for your environmentally friendly electric car, a recharge may be only a phone call away, literally, under a new scheme unveiled by Telekom Austria. The **telecommunications** company has decided to turn its public telephone boxes — which are in danger of becoming **obsolete** anyway thanks to mobile phones — into battery recharging stations for electric cars.

Admittedly, the scheme is still in its **infancy**: there are just 223 electric cars currently registered in Austria at the moment, plus 3,559 hybrid cars, from a total 4.36 million cars on Austrian roads.

But the Austrian motor vehicle association VOeC is predicting that the number will rise to 405,000 by 2020.

In a bid to find new uses for its 13,500 phone boxes around the country, Telekom Austria has therefore come up with the idea of turning them into recharging stations for electric vehicles: cars, scooters and bicycles.

Telekom Austria chief Hannes Ametsreiter unveiled the first such phone box in front of the company's headquarters in Vienna on Tuesday.

And the aim is to convert 29 more phone boxes by the end of this year, Ametsreiter told journalists.

"In the longer run, we'll have to sound out the market to see exactly how many phone boxes will be converted," the telecom chief said.

In the initial trial period, recharging will cost nothing. An electric car needs around 6.5 hours to be recharged, an electric scooter 80 minutes and an electric bike 20 minutes.

But in future, payment, which is expected to cost a single-digit euro sum, will be via mobile phone, Ametsreiter said.

(AFP)

如果你的環保電動車沒電了，只需一通電話就可以充電。奧地利電信公司推出這項新服務。

行動電話日益發達，使得公用電話亭漸漸被淘汰，因此奧地利電信公司決定把電話亭改裝成電動車充電站。

無可否認地，這個計畫還在初步階段：全奧地利目前僅有兩百二十三部有照電動車，以及三千五百五十九輛油電混合車，而奧地利全國車輛總數為四百三十六萬輛。

但奧地利汽車協會VOeC預估二〇二〇年前，電動車的數量將增

加到四十萬五千輛。

為了讓奧國境內一萬三千五百座電話亭有新的用途，奧地利電信公司想到了這個點子：將電話亭改裝成可供電動汽、機車與電動腳踏車充電的充電站。

奧地利電信公司總裁哈內斯·亞梅茲萊特上週二於維也納總部前，對外公開第一座充電電話亭。

亞梅茲萊特對記者表示，該公司計畫年底前，再改裝二十九座電話亭。

亞梅茲萊特說：「長期來說，我們將試探市場，再決定要改裝多少座電話亭。」

充電服務在初期試用階段是免費的。一部電動車充電需要六個半小時，電動機車需要八十分鐘，電動腳踏車則需要二十分鐘。

亞梅茲萊特說，未來使用者將可透過手機付費，費用不到十歐元。

(法新社/翻譯：吳岱璟)

A man demonstrates charging an electric car in Strasbourg, France, on 27 April, 2010.

PHOTO: EPA

四月二十七日在法國史特拉斯堡，一名男子示範如何幫電動車充電。 照片：歐新社

TODAY'S WORDS 今日單字

1. **telecommunication** /,telə'kə,mjʊnə'keɪʃən/ n.

電信 (dian4 xin4)

例: The local telecommunications industry has gone through big changes recently. (當地電信業最近已有大改變。)

2. **obsolete** /'ɒbsə,lɪt/ adj.

淘汰 (tao2 tai4)

例: The software has been obsolete for over five years. (這個軟體被淘汰已經五年多了。)

3. **admittedly** /əd'mɪtɪdli/ adv.

無可否認地 (wu2 ke2 fou3 ren4 de5)

例: Admittedly, the last concert was poor, but I think we can improve. (無可否認地，上次演奏會我們表現不佳，但我覺得還有改善的空間。)

4. **infancy** /'ɪnfənzi/ n.

初創期 (chu1 chaung4 qi2)

例: Online social networking is still in its infancy. (線上社交網絡仍在初創期。)