

Aras Kargo Electrified for Nature



Aras Kargo increased the number of its 100 per cent electric vehicles to 39 and announced that it has the largest electric commercial vehicle fleet in Türkiye. Having undertaken ₺ 5 million investment cost, Aras Kargo will thus save 10 per cent per month in fuel costs. Thanks to its eco-friendly vehicles, Aras Kargo fleet will be prevented from 5,787 tonnes of carbon emissions. It is calculated that this reduction in carbon emissions will contribute to nature as much as planting 18 thousand new trees in 8 years.

The press conference organised for the presentation of 30 new vehicles added to the fleet was held in Yıldız Park in İstanbul in accordance with the eco-friendly concept it has adopted. As being the first Turkish cargo company to purchase electric vehicles for its commercial fleet in 2011, Aras Kargo has been serving as a pilot with 9 vehicles for 3 years, especially in its inner-city deliveries. Following the use of vehicles in line optimisation and efficiency tests of charging units, Aras Kargo decided to increase the number of vehicles.

Having described the biggest responsibility of their company as to experience eco-friendly and human-friendly technologies, and to build their own way of doing business on the basis of efficiency, Evrim Aras, Chairman and CEO of Aras Kargo, further stated that: "Unfortunately, our sector is inherently not eco-friendly. With our 3,320 vehicles, we are travelling across Türkiye, carrying nearly 400 thousand shipments every single day. We leave a huge carbon footprint in nature. Although we cannot renew our entire fleet with eco-friendly technology overnight, we have had to start at some point. Once we were sure of the efficiency of the initial step we took in 2011, we took it further in 2014 and assumed its cost burden of ₺ 5 million. Today, our 39 vehicles deliver shipments to their customers, especially in big cities, by protecting the nature as much as possible."

Having emphasized that with this eco-friendly step it has taken, Aras Kargo is to prevent 5787 tonnes of carbon emissions in 8 years, which is the average vehicle life of electric vehicles, Evrim Aras further described such contribution to the protection of environment as being equal to planting 18 thousand new trees in the meantime. (The figures are based on carbonfootprint.com and TEMA Foundation calculations).

Having stated that electric vehicles will also serve in Ankara, İzmir, Bursa and Kocaeli in addition to İstanbul, Evrim Aras pointed out another eco-friendly step of theirs as fleet rejuvenation. Aras said that, "We have renewed 430 vehicles in our existing vehicle fleet. We will continue our investment plans in 2015 to renew the remaining old vehicles. While showing our sensitivity to the environment with electric vehicles, we aim to minimise carbon emissions with the new vehicles we purchase."

Aras Kargo's electric vehicles are manufactured by BD Otomotiv. Osman Boyner, Board Chairman of BD Otomotiv, the first and only Turkish company to invest in the field of light commercial electric vehicles with its manufacturing and sales activities in Türkiye since 2011, also said that: "Türkiye's pioneering companies open to innovation, which are in co-operation with our company, are expanding their electric vehicle fleets, which they have established with certain numbers in the first stage, upon seeing the results arising from the trials carried out, just as in this occasion for which Aras Kargo has brought us together today."

Aras Kargo has concluded an agreement with BD Otomotiv to add 30 more electric vehicles to its fleet as a result of the performance in terms of efficiency and ease of use in the light of the experience it gained from the first electric vehicle fleet formed with 9 vehicles with different load capacities. Aras Kargo has thereby become Türkiye's largest company using electric commercial vehicles. The distance covered so far by our 400 electric vehicles has reached 20 million kilometres. With the confidence and experience we have gained from this experience, our goal as BD Otomotiv is to increase the number of electric vehicles in the fleets of Aras Kargo, and in those of our other customers as of 2014, and thereby to ensure that these eco- and human-friendly vehicles are to replace conventional vehicles evermore."

