



West Coast Electric Highway Helps Kick the Gas Habit With First Electric Vehicle Fast-Charging Stations Along Interstate 5

- "Fast" electric vehicle (EV) charging stations from AeroVironment now open along I-5 in Southern Oregon, enabling convenient long-distance electric vehicle travel
- AeroVironment will provide free charging to EV owners for a limited time

SALEM, Ore.--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- Cruising the open road is now a little closer to reality for electric vehicle owners in the Pacific Northwest.

Today, the [Oregon Department of Transportation](#) (ODOT), along with charging station partner [AeroVironment \(NASDAQ: AVAV\)](#) and the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE), opened the first phase of the West Coast Electric Highway, which is anticipated to eventually stretch along Interstate 5 from the Canadian to Mexican borders. The charging station hubs introduced today will provide electric vehicle (EV) owners access to a network of electric "refueling" stations along a major transportation artery in southern Oregon.

"As the first state in the nation to establish an EV charging infrastructure along a major interstate, Oregon is leading the EV pathway and supporting adoption of the next phase in the evolution of transportation," said Pat Egan, chair of the Oregon Transportation Commission and vice president of customer and community affairs for Pacific Power. "Once Oregon's segment of the West Coast Electric Highway is completed, EV drivers will be able to travel from Ashland to Portland at a fraction of the cost of filling a gas tank and with no direct emissions."

The West Coast Electric Highway will eventually allow EV drivers to travel from San Diego to Vancouver, B.C. without relying on carbon-based fuel. "Fast" charging stations, included at each of the newly operational locations, can provide a full charge for an EV in less than 30 minutes; soon, these stations will dot interchanges up and down I-5.

"Plug-in vehicles are increasing in popularity, with many new models coming to market in 2012," said Art James, senior project executive with the Oregon Department of Transportation. "We wanted to develop state-of-the-art charging infrastructure to support them, and AeroVironment has helped us provide Oregon EV owners the ability to travel from community to community."

Spaced at roughly 25-mile intervals along the southern Oregon I-5, the AeroVironment charging stations are available at convenient locations in Cottage Grove, Rice Hill, Roseburg, Canyonville, Wolf Creek, Grants Pass, Central Point, and Ashland. Each location has two charging stations including one DC "fast" charger. Plans call for more than 40 additional charging stations from AeroVironment to be operational in Oregon and Washington by the end of the year.

"With the price of gas increasing, Oregon wants to provide more transportation alternatives," said Oregon Department of Energy Director Bob Repine. "It's important that Oregonians have clean transportation options."

ODOE awarded ODOT \$915,000 in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (stimulus) funding through ODOE's State Energy Program to install the network of EV charging stations.

Electric vehicle drivers will be able to activate access to the charging stations by signing up for AV's Charging Network at [evsolutions.com/avnetwork](#) or by calling toll-free at 888-833-2148. Once enrolled, EV drivers will receive an AV Network key fob that will allow access to all AeroVironment chargers along the West Coast Electric Highway. AeroVironment is also providing free charging for a limited time, giving EV drivers freedom and convenience on the open road.

"Oregon has firmly established itself as a leader in the clean transportation movement," said Wahid Nawabi, AeroVironment senior vice president and general manager of its Efficient Energy Systems business segment. "Together, AeroVironment, the Oregon Department of Transportation and the Oregon Department of Energy are delivering on the promise of transportation that promotes energy independence and frees drivers from fluctuating gas prices."

About Oregon Department of Energy

The [Oregon Department of Energy](#) provides tax credits, loans, technical assistance and energy information for homes, businesses, manufacturing, farms, ranches, schools and governments.

About Oregon Department of Transportation

The Oregon Department of Transportation values safety, customer service, efficiency, accountability, problem-solving, diversity and sustainability. Learn more at www.oregon.gov/ODOT.

About AeroVironment, Inc.

AeroVironment is a technology solutions provider that designs, develops, produces, operates and supports an advanced portfolio of electric transportation solutions and electric-powered [Unmanned Aircraft Systems](#) (UAS). AeroVironment's comprehensive [EV charging solutions](#) include EV home charging, public charging, fast charging, data collection, grid-integrated communications and complete installation, training and support services for consumers, automakers, utilities, government agencies and businesses. AeroVironment's [industrial electric vehicle charging systems](#) support thousands of electric materials handling vehicles in mission-critical supply chains for Fortune 500 enterprises. AeroVironment's [power cycling and test systems](#) provide EV developers and EV battery manufacturers with market-leading simulation and cycling capabilities. Agencies of the U.S. Department of Defense and allied military services use the company's electric-powered, [hand-launched unmanned aircraft systems](#) to provide situational awareness to tactical operating units through real-time, airborne reconnaissance, surveillance and communication. More information is available at www.avinc.com and www.evsolutions.com.

Safe Harbor Statement

Certain statements in this press release may constitute "forward-looking statements" as that term is defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements are made on the basis of current expectations, forecasts and assumptions that involve risks and uncertainties, including, but not limited to, economic, competitive, governmental and technological factors outside of our control, that may cause our business, strategy or actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from the forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to; the activities of competitors; failure of the markets in which we operate to grow; failure to expand into new markets; failure to develop new products or integrate new technology with current products; and general economic and business conditions in the United States and elsewhere in the world. For a further list and description of such risks and uncertainties, see the reports we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission. We do not intend, and undertake no obligation, to update any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

Additional AeroVironment News: <http://avinc.com/resources/news/>
AeroVironment Media Gallery: http://avinc.com/media_gallery/ev_charging/
Like us: www.facebook.com/pages/AeroVironmentEV/165341556870732
Follow us: www.twitter.com/AeroVironmentEV

Photos/Multimedia Gallery Available: <http://www.businesswire.com/cgi-bin/mmg.cgi?eid=50206563&lang=en>

AeroVironment, Inc.

Steven Gitlin

+1 (626) 357-9983

pr@avinc.com

or

For AeroVironment, Inc.

John Soriano/Geoff Mordock

+1 (310) 482-4280

john.soriano@fleishman.com

geoff.mordock@fleishman.com

or

ODOT Public Affairs

Shelley M. Snow

+1 (503) 881-5362

Shelley.m.snow@odot.state.or.us

Source: AeroVironment, Inc.

News Provided by Acquire Media