



Media Release

Bern, 30th September 2015

World's first! carvelo2go – The first ecargo bike-sharing starts in Bern

On Wednesday 30th September 2015 the Mobility Academy in Bern launched the world's first public ecargo bike-sharing. Potential users can reserve electric cargo bikes on an hourly basis via the platform carvelo2go.ch and collect them from so-called hosts at various locations in the city of Bern. The carvelo2go pilot project is embedded in the "carvelo" Swiss cargo bike initiative of the Mobility Academy and the Engagement Migros Development Fund. The partners in the project are the city of Bern, the Touring Club Switzerland and BLS AG.

Cargo bikes are ideally suited for transporting small children or goods in the city. If you wish to use a bike for this mode of transport or to simply try out a cargo bike these are now available with immediate effect in Bern. After a one-off and free registration on the carvelo2go.ch platform users can select one of the available cargo bikes and reserve it for the desired period. They can then collect the bike from a carvelo2go host in return for payment.

The Hosts

The following companies and locations in Bern are currently serving as hosts for the project: the Mobility Academy, the TCS at various locations (incl. on Maulbeerstrasse and in Thunplatz), the BLS railway stations at Bümpliz Nord and Köniz, the book publishers Haupt, Vetter Herzog, La Cultina, die Barbière, Coffeebreak GmbH and the Apfelgold bar. These hosts manage the keys and batteries of 18 bikes in total and in return can use these themselves free of charge for their own business purposes within a specific timeframe. This simultaneously promotes the use of cargo bikes both in the private as well as in the commercial context and guarantees maximum utilisation of the available bikes.

The partners for the project in Bern are the Fachstelle Mobilitätsberatung of the City of Bern Department for Environmental Protection, the Touring Club Switzerland together with the Bern-Mittelland Region and BLS AG. The TCS and BLS AG are supplying their own ecargo bikes which can also be reserved via the platform and collected from various locations.

The Mobility Academy also has plans to include additional cities in the pilot project and to shortly start offering carvelo2go with further partners on a national basis.

Die Schweizer
Lastenrad-Initiative
der Mobilitätsakademie
und des Förderfonds
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Pilot project as part of carvelo, the Swiss cargo bike initiative

carvelo2go is a project being run by carvelo, the Swiss cargo bike initiative of the Mobility Academy and the Engagement Migros Development Fund. The initiative has set itself the aim of promoting cargo bikes in Switzerland – both in the commercial and the private context. “With carvelo2go the Mobility Academy is once again fulfilling its own aspiration of not only being a think-tank but also a ‘do-tank’ for pioneering mobility”, says Joerg Beckmann, Director of the Mobility Academy.

Important additional information:

On Saturday 3 October 2015, between 11.00 hrs. and 16.00 hrs, users will be able to try out the cargo bikes available on carvelo2go as part of a trial day at the BLS railway stations of Bümpliz Nord and Köniz.

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Information: Photos of the launch will be available from 13:00 hrs. by going to carvelo.ch/presse

Info on the Mobility Academy

The Mobility Academy is a subsidiary of the TCS and since 2008 has been engaged in work on pioneering, sustainable forms of mobility, creating an impartial framework for a creative approach to transport beyond national borders. Through its programmes it is pursuing the three major trends in the transport sector: the decarbonisation of personal motorised transport thanks to electrification, the de-privatisation of individual mobility tools within the context of the Share Economy, as well as the de-motorisation of urban transport and the ‘renaissance’ of the bicycle. www.mobilityacademy.ch

Info on the Engagement Migros Development Fund

Through the Engagement Migros Development Fund the Migros Group provides support for voluntary projects in the areas of culture, sustainability, business and sport. The projects are financed by companies from the trade, financial services and travel sectors. The funds provided equate to ten percent of the companies’ annual dividend distributions. The Development Fund is founded on the responsibility of the Migros Group to society and supplements the development activity of Migros-Kulturprozent. www.engagement-migros.ch

Info on the partners TCS and BLS AG

The TCS provides assistance for all people on the move. Through its involvement in carvelo2go the TCS is promoting new forms of mobility and offering the cargo bikes free of charge for TCS members during the pilot phase. www.tcs.ch

BLS sees itself as an innovative mobility provider. It aims to expand its offering for travellers of seamless, door-to-door connections and greater flexibility in the choice of their mode of transport – this is the reason for its involvement in the carvelo2go project. www.bls.ch

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