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VOLTS, North America's Largest Interoperability Testing Event for EV Charging, Paves the Way for Seamless Customer Charging Experiences

May 11, 2023, LONG BEACH, Calif. – In its debut event, VOLTS (Vehicle Interoperability Testing Symposium) - the largest North American testing event for the interoperability of electric vehicle (EV) charging equipment - took place in Long Beach, California. In an unprecedented milestone, this event funded by the California Energy Commission and organized by an international e-Mobility association, the Charging Interface Initiative (CharIN), brought together 38 different e-Mobility companies to test their equipment, 34 highly renowned e-Mobility experts for a one-day conference, and more than 500 attendees from all around the world.

The auto industry is making an unprecedented shift towards electrification, and with the proliferation of new industry stakeholders, alignment and interoperability are key to ensuring a smooth customer journey. The need to exchange knowledge, further develop customer-centric services, and ensure conformance with standards to prevent issues in the field, is greater than ever.

On May 09, 2023, more than **354** global attendees joined the VOLTS Conference, which featured 34 top experts on a wide range of interoperability and reliability topics focused on ISO 15118, including features like Plug & Charge, V2X, cybersecurity, and other features enabled by the ISO communication standard. Discussions on key challenges to public charging were also discussed, such as workforce development, electric utility interconnection, and success metrics for public charging infrastructure investments.





The Testing Symposium from May 10-11, 2023, provided the ideal platform for **over 400 attendees** to observe industry experts actively testing ISO 15118 and its features through a series of public demonstrations. Compliance with this standard is crucial for the seamless and secure charging of EVs. Testers had the opportunity to address equipment issues, and test different ISO 15118 implementations, including features such as Plug & Charge and smart charging. For the first time ever, results of this testing will be publicly-available in the coming months.

The demonstrations showcased at VOLTS included many solutions, such as robotic charging, V2X (e.g., Vehicle-to-Home, Vehicle-to-Grid), Plug & Charge, and advanced equipment, including automated vehicles, which are all required to have a fully functioning EV ecosystem.

The organizer of the event, CharIN, has been a leading international voice over the past decade on the need for universal charging standards to ensure charging interoperability based on Combined Charging System (CCS) and the new Megawatt Charging System (MCS) using ISO 15118. Today, CharIN supports this essential work for all mobility sectors as an enabler and convener to create industry collaboration and consensus on universal open and interoperable charging standards.

Michael Keller, Executive Board CharIN global, stated, "Customer comfort and reliability are a priority and required to ensure the growth of EV adoption. Plug & Charge enabled by ISO 15118 is one such tool to make secure, reliable, and easy payments for charging infrastructure. To test ISO 15118 and Plug & Charge at this scale is a major milestone for CharIN and the e-Mobility industry."

Oleg Logvinov, Chair of CharIN North America and CEO and President of IoTecha commented, "VOLTS represents the largest North America testing event to date and our first jointly held event with a public agency. It leverages CharIN's expertise developed through almost a decade of regular Festival events around the globe. We are grateful to the California Energy Commission for making this significant public investment of funding to support interoperability testing events, such as the Vehicle Interoperability Testing Symposium, which are critically needed to drive standardization and innovation. The goal of interoperability testing is to improve the charging experience for every EV driver."



Hannon Rasool, the Director of the Fuels and Transportation Division at the California Energy Commission, added, "Significant and important investments in electric vehicle infrastructure are occurring at the federal and state level, as well as across the world. As we continue to move into mass mainstream adoption it is imperative that the industry comes together around open EV standards and interoperability to create consumer confidence in a seamless charging experience. Drivers should not have to worry about proprietary memberships or complicated mechanisms to charge their vehicles in all the places they live, work, and travel. That's why events like VOLTS are so important - we are proud to support this event."

VOLTS was a public-private collaboration paving the way for decarbonization and interoperability and serves as a model for other states and the federal government.

Stats & Facts VOLTS 2023

- **Over 350 attendees at the VOLTS Conference**
- 34 highly renowned e-Mobility speakers and panelists
- **over 400 attendees at the VOLTS Testing Symposium**
- 38 different testing e-Mobility companies
- 4 school busses, 4 trucks, 13 electric cars, 18 charging stations, 7 test systems
- 182 testing slots





About CharIN Global

CharIN is an international association of vehicle manufacturers, energy providers and original equipment manufacturers with one common goal: To establish the Combined Charging System (CCS) and the Megawatt Charging System (MCS) as the global standard for charging all types of battery-powered electric vehicles. CharIN represents over [300 leading e-mobility stakeholders](#) from the entire EV charging value chain. It is open to all interested parties and has offices in Germany, Brussels, Hong Kong, South Korea, India, Japan, China, and the US. Please find more information at www.charin.global

About CharIN North America

The Charging Interface Initiative (CharIN) North America (dba CharIN Inc.) serves as a leading industry association bringing CharIN's global approach to decarbonization through the electrification of North American transport. Convening together industrywide e-mobility stakeholders including automakers, charging station manufacturers, component suppliers, energy providers, government officials, and grid operators, our organization assists members in coordinating, advancing, and advocating for interoperability across electric vehicle charging infrastructure. Driving forward the widely-adopted Combined Charging System (CCS) and the Megawatt Charging System (MCS) platforms, CharIN works to ensure all electric vehicles – from light-duty passenger cars to freight trucks, e-ferries, ships, and planes – can work seamlessly with available charging stations and services. CharIN serves as a pivotal, unified voice for industry-standard, interoperable charging technologies and best practices, working with federal, state, and local regulatory agencies and policymakers to unleash innovation and encourage the rapid adoption of electric vehicles in municipal, commercial, and private use. More information is available online at <https://www.charin.global/charin-inc/>

About the California Energy Commission

The California Energy Commission is leading the state to a 100 percent clean energy future. It has seven core responsibilities: developing renewable energy, transforming transportation, increasing energy efficiency, investing in energy innovation, advancing state energy policy, certifying thermal power plants, and preparing for energy emergencies.

