

Ford To Become First Mass Producer of Electric Vehicles in Russia – Kommersant

Joint venture with Sollers will produce electric Ford Transit vans from 2022.

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In one of the world's most oil-rich countries, Russia's electric vehicle market has yet to take off. **Pixabay**

Ford is set to become the first automaker to launch mass production of electric vehicles in Russia, the Kommersant newspaper has [reported](#).

The U.S. car giant, through a joint venture with Russian firm Sollers, will start making electric versions of its Ford Transit vans at a plant in Russia's republic of Tatarstan from 2022, a company representative told the paper.

Sollers expects around 4% of the light commercial vehicle market in Russia to be made up of electric vehicles by 2025 and is lobbying the government to boost support for electric vehicles

in Russia's major cities. It has suggested dedicated road lanes, toll-free travel and unrestricted access to city centers — schemes already adopted in various other cities around the world.

The plant will be the first in Russia to produce electric vehicles for the mass market.

Sollers said it expects strong demand for electric vans from Russia's booming online retail companies, who are investing heavily in logistics and infrastructure. The company said electric vans can be 40% more efficient and 20% cheaper than diesel engine equivalents.

Nevertheless, it cautioned that rollout would likely be slow and expects only a handful of Russia's most densely populated cities — including Moscow, St. Petersburg and Kazan — to be ready for electric vehicles within the next five years.

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