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- Nissan employees create prototype 48 kWh LEAF, doubling the capacity of the production 24 kWh model
- Technicians formed from Nissan's Innovation team worked on the project during evenings and weekends
- The prototype participated in several ECOseries events, showcasing its increased range and demonstrating Nissan's commitment to its vision for Intelligent Mobility

**Barcelona, SPAIN, 21<sup>st</sup> of July 2016:** In a demonstration of their passion for innovation, Nissan engineers have created a prototype Nissan LEAF with a 48 kWh battery – in their spare time.

Following the manufacturer's principles of on-going research and development of electric vehicles, the 48 kWh prototype carries a battery twice the size of the original Nissan LEAF production model, with a 75 percent increase in driving range in everyday conditions.

It was created by a group of engineers at Nissan's Technical Centre in Barcelona (NTCE-S), whose passion and commitment to their work has given rise to the Nissan Innovation team. The team of volunteers take on a range of exciting endeavours, pushing the boundaries of what is possible with electric vehicle technology.

The prototype, codenamed "Cocoon" in reference to the American sci-fi film of the same name, was built to compete in the Spanish motorsport event, ECOseries - a new initiative which rewards "efficiency and fuel economy rather than outright speed."

**Dario Fernandez, Senior Engineer at NTCE-S,** said: "It has been a great privilege to work on this project and to see our finished prototype race in the ECOseries. We all have a real passion for what we do and being able to work on prototype projects gives us the creative freedom to be as innovative and forward-thinking as we possibly can.

"Battery range improvement is important to the on-going adoption of electric vehicles, so this was a great opportunity to utilise our knowledge of zero-emissions technology to look at how battery range could potentially be extended in this particular application."

**Gareth Dunsmore, Director of Electric Vehicles at Nissan Europe,** said: "As a pioneer of the electric vehicle market, Nissan has consistently innovated and advanced its technology to remain at the forefront of the zero emission sector. Whilst there are no plans to put this prototype into production, it serves as a useful exercise in thinking outside the box, something our engineers and designers do on a daily basis. The Nissan LEAF 48 kWh showcases the passion our employees have for their work."

These extra-curricular projects feed in to Nissan's Intelligent Mobility vision and allow employees to draw on their expertise, skills and experience to experiment with technology, design and engineering. The Intelligent Mobility framework informs all of Nissan's future products and technologies, with the aim of developing a smart, connected, sustainable zero emission transport network.

Nissan introduced the Nissan LEAF as the world's first mass-market, 100 percent electric vehicle in 2010. Since then, the auto-manufacturer has continued to design and produce innovative zero emission solutions, including the e-NV200 pure electric light commercial vehicle and a longer range LEAF with a 30 kWh battery.

For more information about Nissan's electric vehicle range, visit [www.nissan.eu/experience-nissan.html](http://www.nissan.eu/experience-nissan.html)

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### ABOUT NISSAN IN EUROPE

Nissan has one of the most comprehensive European presences of any overseas manufacturer, employing more than 17,000 staff across locally-based design, research & development, manufacturing, logistics and sales & marketing operations. Last year Nissan plants in the UK, Spain and Russia produced more than 635,000 vehicles including award-winning crossovers, commercial vehicles and the Nissan LEAF, the world's most popular electric vehicle. Pursuing a goal of zero emissions and zero fatalities on the road, Nissan recently announced its Intelligent Mobility vision. Designed to guide Nissan's product and technology pipeline, this 360 degree approach to the future of mobility will anchor critical company decisions around how cars are powered, how cars are driven, and how cars integrate into society. Nissan is positioned to become the most desirable Asian brand in Europe.

<http://www.newsroom.nissan-europe.com>

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