

Ather Energy opens its proprietary fast-charging connector for other OEMs to drive faster adoption of EVs

- Aims to drive faster adoption of EVs and improve supporting infrastructure
- Offers open collaboration with other OEMs to use common connector and access Ather Energy's 200+ fast chargers across India

Bengaluru, 10th August 2021: Ather Energy, India's first intelligent electric scooter manufacturer, today announced that the company will offer its proprietary charging connector to other OEMs to adopt for their two-wheelers, paving the way for an interoperable two-wheeler fast charging platform for the country. This would not only reduce range anxiety by allowing all scooters to access Ather Energy's 200+ fast chargers, but also allow more OEMs to build products on a common standard thus lowering infrastructure investments.

A robust charging infrastructure is one of the major drivers in accelerating faster adoption of electric two-wheelers. In order to maximize usage and efficiency of charging infrastructure, there needs to be common connectors that can be used across products. Since its inception, Ather Energy has invested in building a fast-charging network, Ather Grid, and has been providing normal speed charge options to all electric two-wheelers and four-wheelers free of cost. Opening up Ather Energy's connector technology will promote the use of a common connector, allowing all EV owners to use any fast charging solution across the country. Hence, enabling the entire ecosystem to work together to fast-track EV adoption in India.

Need for a new connector standard for fast charging

While there are global standards for electric four-wheelers like the CHADEMO, CCS, etc. there are no connector standards available customized for two-wheeler fast charging, except in China. Two-wheeler fast charging requirements are unique. The shape and size of the vehicle makes it infeasible to adopt a four-wheeler charging connector. Similarly, the same connector would be used for normal as well as fast charging. Indian road environment, temperature, and moisture require a standard designed for Indian conditions with adequate field tests for safety and equipment life.

Designed by Ather, this connector has a combo AC and DC charging with the same connector. This connector size has been designed to be suitable for integration into two-wheelers and three-wheelers with the ability of CAN 2.0 communication with control and proximity pilot. Finally, it is designed for production at low costs, which allows it to be used in mass segment vehicles.

Quote by Tarun Mehta, Co-founder & CEO, Ather Energy:

“Electric two-wheelers are now going mainstream with the big push through FAME 2 by the government. Consumers need a fast-charging network in public locations to make this shift and that’s exactly what we are doing to build this category. Sharing our proprietary charging connector is a big step for having a common connector and hence interoperable chargers for all two-wheelers. At this stage of the category, the industry needs these collaborations and we are already in talks with some OEMs to take this industry collaboration forward.”

About Ather Energy:

Ather Energy, one of India’s first intelligent electric vehicle manufacturers was founded in 2013 by IIT Madras alumni, Tarun Mehta, and Swapnil Jain. It is backed by the founders of Flipkart -Sachin Bansal & Binny Bansal- Hero Motocorp and Tiger Global. Ather Energy launched India’s first truly intelligent, electric scooter - Ather 450 in 2018, followed by their new flagship offering Ather 450X in 2020. Ather has also installed a comprehensive public charging network, Ather Grid, designed and built in India. With 170+ charging points across India, Ather Grid is one of the largest fast-charging networks for electric vehicles in the country. The company’s product line has won 37 awards in design, automotive, and technology categories. With 58 Indian and international patent applications, 109 trademarks, and 118 Indian and International design registrations to its name, Ather Energy aims to provide consumers with the best possible ownership experience. Ather Energy currently operates in 23 cities including Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Pune, Jaipur, Kochi, Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Mysore, and Hubli.

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