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Crisis as Opportunity

The transport sector has proven itself to be system-relevant during the Corona pandemic. People working in the areas of logistics and workshop services are still providing an essential contribution towards overcoming the crisis, alongside doctors, nursing staff, retail staff and many more. For this reason, the recognition of truck drivers is still an issue for us.

We now have to find a way out of the crisis and see it as an opportunity for new technologies and innovation, despite the high efficiency of diesel, without ignoring feasibility and the here and now. The trend in passenger cars is towards battery-electric propulsion. In the truck sector, the application is the differentiating factor. Apart from distribution in urban space, which is seeing a push toward battery-electric solutions, we also see the fuel cell as a solution for long haulage in the medium term. In principle, this is also an electric powertrain where the fuel cell basically plays the role of a range extender. These fuel cells function free of noise and emissions and convert, in the ideal case, green and regeneratively generated hydrogen to electrical energy and water vapor via a chemical reaction

with oxygen in air. In simplified terms, the battery can be charged from a socket powered by an onboard power station and this gains range. In order to not lose time, Iveco has decided upon a cooperation. The US start-up Nikola was first choice as partner and production will be based in Iveco's factory in Ulm (Germany).

The bridge to this future is CNG and LNG, which are already accepted today as the only alternatives to diesel. Mixing in biogas or sewage gas enables the CO₂ emissions to be lowered almost at will. Iveco was a pioneer in bringing gas technology to the road and their methane (biogas/natural gas) vehicles have been present on the market for many years. We have been active in installing LNG infrastructure and have gained high levels of expertise with the sales of 35,000 methane-powered vehicles including 7000 heavy-duty LNG trucks. This results not only in lower fuel consumption and lower emissions, but also highest reliability. This is an essential prerequisite for companies since the vehicles are permanent elements of a logistic chain.