

Mitsubishi shifting gears to tech future

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ABOUT DDH SYSTEM

- DDH, developed by Mitsubishi Motors Corporation in Japan, is a packaged system consisting of an electric vehicle (EV) or plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV), a bi-directional charger, solar panels and battery that is designed for home use.
- Customers can charge their EV or PHEV vehicle at home using solar-generated power, or supply electricity from their EV/PHEV vehicle to the home, depending on their power needs.
- DDH provides an emergency power source that can supply energy from the EV/PHEV or storage battery to run appliances in the home for a couple of hours.

Mitsubishi Australia CEO Shaun Westcott with an Eclipse Cross PHEV car and bidirectional charger. Picture: Keryn Stevens

MITSUBISHI Australia is powering towards a new future, making the transition from an automotive business to a mobility technology solutions company, chief executive Shaun Westcott says.

The business is months away from offering potential customers not just car ownership, but also energy-onwheels solutions for their homes that allow owners to generate, store and transfer energy between cars and properties.

The South Australian-based local arm of the Japanese automaker, which has serviced the Australian market for just over 40 years, officially opened its new headquarters at Adelaide Airport yesterday.

“While we celebrate our ongoing commitment to Australia and our great heritage, including previously as a manufacturer, this is also a pivot point to our future as a mobility technology company,” Mr Westcott said.

Mitsubishi’s Dendo Drive House technology – first unveiled by parent Mitsubishi Motors Corporation at the Geneva International Auto Show in March 2019 – will be displayed at the new location, which will also house more than 200 employees.

The system consists of a 100 kilowatt solar and battery system with two bidirectional and 14 single directional charging points for electric vehicles. Currently undergoing a rigorous commissioning process, the system will be fully active in June.

“Mitsubishi’s Dendo Drive House technology is the jewel in the crown of our new headquarters,” Mr Westcott said.

“Our global mission is to contribute positively to sustainable development. With Dendo Drive House, we’ve pioneered a climate-friendly system where vehicles and buildings power each other.”

DDH will be compatible with Mitsubishi’s new plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV) Outlander, launching here later this year, and the PHEV Triton coming in next year. Various parts that make up the whole system will need regulatory approval for use locally.

“With 2.6 million Australian houses with solar roofs, and Australia’s capacity to provide wind and wave power, we are confident that our energymanagement ecosystem will provide the right technology for Australian households,” Mr Westcott said.

The evolution comes as politicians and policymakers weigh the cost of increased use of electric vehicles against a potential fuel excise deficit that will affect the maintenance of roads.

While SA first proposed a road-user charge, and delayed it to monitor measures in other states, Victoria is set to introduce it from July 1.

Mitsubishi said it did not favour a “triple tax” regime for electric vehicles, with hybrid model customers already paying energy and fuel taxes.

“But we are always ready to have a conversation and want to be a part of the solution in what the future looks like,” Mr Westcott said.

The State Government contributed \$2m towards Mitsubishi’s new \$26m home, away from its Tonsley manufacturing roots where it produced cars from 1980 to 2008.

Mitsubishi has 183 dealers around Australia, 28 of which are in SA.

It is the nation's fourthmost popular car brand with a market share of 8 per cent.