## MEDIA RELEASE

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## Catch a Car: 30 e-Golfs for Basel and new ETH study findings

**The young Swiss car-sharing provider Catch a Car is putting 30 e-Golfs into operation in Basel today. The commissioning of the fleet not only confirms the startup's ambitions to rid the city of noise and exhaust fumes, it also fulfils the promise made in April to electrify 20% of the Basel fleet this year. This move will see Basel become the first Swiss city with a comprehensive electric car-sharing service. The fact that Catch a Car is on the right track is proven by new ETH research results, which will also be released today – the use of the Catch a Car service is bringing about a reduction in the number of private vehicles on the roads and is lowering $CO_2$ emissions.**

In order to realise the vision of a clean city without any exhaust fumes or noise, Catch a Car is switching to electromobility. After the first e-cars were introduced in spring, the startup is now getting serious – rolling out 30 e-Golfs in Basel and thus providing a unique combination of station-independent car-sharing and electromobility in Switzerland. The e-Golfs, which are being made available to members as of today, are more energy-efficient than conventional cars and cause neither noise nor $CO_2$ emissions. Catch a Car has found optimal conditions for electromobility in Basel, as the canton of Basel-Stadt and the energy supplier IWB installed charging stations in public car parks last May as part of a pilot project. Anyone wishing to test the new e-golfs can do so on one of the Driving Days – for example on 10 November in Riehen – or benefit for a limited period of time from free registration including travel credit.

**ETH study: fewer private cars and less $CO_2$ thanks to Catch a Car**
As part of the rollout of the e-Golfs, Catch a Car is also releasing the research results of an ETH accompanying study. Since the launch of the service in 2014, the startup has been investigating the use of station-independent car-sharing and its effects on urban transport in Basel. The new results corroborate previous results: for example, approximately 6% of the users surveyed have reduced the number of vehicles that they own due to Catch a Car. If the service no longer existed, 11% would buy their own car – this represents a 3% increase on the previous study. If you extrapolate this to the number of users, this results in 500 fewer private vehicles on the roads in Basel. Due to the low

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consumption of the fleet, $CO_2$ emissions are also reduced by around 175 tonnes per year. "It is also great to see that it is mainly young people who are making use of our service, with more than half of the users being under 38," said René Maeder, CEO of Catch a Car, on the topic of the results of the study. "We see this not only as a sign that Catch a Car has its finger on the pulse of the times, but also as a sign that a change in mentality is taking place in the population, with an increasing number of people wanting to move away from the private car and towards the sharing of cars that are not tied to specific stations."

## About Catch a Car

Catch a Car AG was founded in 2014 and is a subsidiary of the Mobility cooperative. In Geneva and Basel, it runs the first and only station-independent car-sharing service in Switzerland – customers simply locate the cars in the app, get in and drive off. Once finished, they park the Catch Cars in public parking spaces within the specified zone. The Catch a Car fleet currently comprises a total of 250 cars and has been gradually electrified since spring 2018. The company's ambitious goal is to rid Swiss cities of noise and exhaust fumes by combining station-independent car-sharing with electromobility. Allianz and AMAG are on board as investors, and SwissEnergy and SBB as strategic partners.

## About the study

The "Analysis of the Catch a Car service in Basel" study was carried out in 2018 by the Institute for Transport Planning and Systems at ETH Zurich and was headed by Professor Kay Axhausen. The study examines the user groups, usage patterns and the effects Catch a Car has on traffic and consists of two parts – a questionnaire on the socio-demographic background and a one-week travel route diary to gain an insight into individual traffic behaviour. 508 Catch a Car customers, 580 Mobility members and 354 people from a representative sample of the Basel population took part in the survey. The management summary of the study can be found on www.catch-a-car.ch/en/media.

## IMAGES

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