Global Electric Vehicles sales to climb fivefold by 2028

Electric vehicle (EV) sales will top 5.1 million units by 2027 and account for 5 per cent of global car sales, according to new 10-year forecasts from BMI Research, a Fitch group company. The forecast data set provides granular sales and fleet forecasting across 52 countries where electric vehicles are sold for both battery electric vehicles (BEV) and plug-in hybrid vehicles (PHEV).

"EV is a nascent industry, and it's no surprise that developed markets with strict fuel economy standards lead market coverage, but these markets don't always have the highest adoption rates," said Anna-Marie Baisden, Head of Autos Analysis.

"In 10 years, sales of battery powered cars will outpace hybrids by about two to one, and fleet penetration, which is now evenly distributed between both, will also lean towards battery vehicles."

EVs will account for 5 per cent of global car sales by 2027, of which BEVs will account for 3.4 million in sales outpacing PHEV sales of 1.7 million. The global EV fleet will grow sevenfold over 10 years to 2027 to 26.8 million but account for less than 2 per cent of the global car fleet.

US EV sales are expected to stay below 3 per cent of new sales by 2027. Canada, which has a similar product mix, is forecast at 3.7 per cent due to better incentives. Norway (78 per cent), Iceland (45 per cent) and Sweden (27 per cent) are the top three markets globally for EV penetration of new sales by 2027. All three fit a profile of affluent smaller developed European markets with supportive incentives where it is easier to renew the fleet.

However, shifting policies have historically impacted sales. Netherlands reported negative numbers for PHEVs in 2017 as consumers returned them when a change of policy meant they were no longer viable.

"Electric vehicle adoption in emerging markets will be challenging as incentives are absent and centralized support for the industry," added Baisden.

Antofagasta expects record Copper output

Antofagasta expects 2019 to be a record year with 750,000 to 790,000 tonnes of copper production. As per the group's recently released last quarter results, copper production in Q4 2018 was 220,000 tonnes, 16.8 per cent higher compared to the previous quarter as a result of higher production at all its operations, particularly at Centinela Concentrates which increased production by 68.3 per cent.

Group copper production for the full year of 725,300 tonnes was at the top end of revised guidance and set a record year for the company with a 3 per cent increase compared with 2017 due to higher production at Los Pelambres and Centinela.

Antofagasta plc CEO, Iván Arriagada said: "The company has finished the year strongly achieving record production for the quarter of 220,000 tonnes and for the full year of 725,300 tonnes. This is at the top end of our revised guidance.

"Reflecting our continued focus on costs our net cash costs for the quarter were $0.99/lb, the lowest since 2012, and for the year were only 3 per cent higher than in 2017 despite average grades declining and cost pressure from rising input prices.

"The group's operations have achieved an improved level of operating stability and we go into 2019 with real momentum for what we expect to be another record-setting year, with production increasing by up to 9 per cent to 750-790,000 tonnes at net cash costs of $1.30/lb " he mentioned.

He further commented that our priorities for the year ahead are to continue to strengthen our safety performance and our operational reliability and efficiency, while also starting the construction of the Los Pelambres expansion, which was approved by the board at the end of last year.