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Chrysler Goes Postal

By Edward Niedermeyer
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“Just in time for Earth Day,” trumpets [Chrysler Blog](#), “Chrysler showed off four all-electric Town & Country minivan concept [vehicles](#) to the U.S. Postal Service, with the hope that mail delivery service across the country could soon be cleaner and quieter.” Digging a little deeper, [Automotive News](#) [sub] reports that Chryco “plans” to provide a fleet of 250 EV T&Cs to the postal service, with testing to begin later this year in Michigan, NYC and North Carolina. The A123 Systems-powered EV minivans, previously seen only in Chrysler’s ENVI vaporware lineups, are reported to have a range of 40–50 miles. Just like Chevy’s [Volt!](#) With about as much chance of making it into production. Never mind; Pr waits for no man.

“Fleet is ideal for what we’re presenting today,” ENVI Prez Lou Rhodes tells *AN*. “Fleet customers travel an average of 18 to 20 miles per day.” Of course retail versions will have Volt-alike ICE range extenders, says Rhodes without betraying a trace of doubt that such a [vehicle](#) will ever see the light of day.

Meanwhile, Chrysler has contracted local utilities to provide charging stations and is applying for federal stimulus money to expand test fleets nationwide. Interestingly [that particular grant program](#) is wholly discretionary, meaning there’s no limit to the amount of cash Chrysler could gobble up in the name of electrification “demonstration.”

[Automotive News \[sub\]](#) »
