

PRESS RELEASE

World Premiere at CARAVAN SALON 2026 in Duesseldorf, August 28.- September 6th

Why the Next Generation of Electric Motorhomes Requires a Purpose-Built Platform

Vöhringer, Motive Development and CityFreighter unveil the world's first motorhome developed consistently around electric mobility.

A purpose-built electric skateboard platform creates unprecedented interior space, long-term value retention and a true passenger-car driving experience.

Düsseldorf, August 2026 – For more than four decades, virtually every motorhome has been built according to the same principle: a living cabin mounted on the chassis of a commercial van. What was originally developed for diesel powertrains continues to determine the available living space, vehicle weight, driving dynamics and overall comfort of today's recreational vehicles.

Electric mobility changes these rules.

At CARAVAN SALON 2026, Vöhringer, Motive Development and CityFreighter are presenting a world premiere that demonstrates what motorhomes can become when they are no longer constrained by the compromises of a commercial van chassis.

Presented at the **Vöhringer stand (Hall 13 / A95)**, the concept vehicle is based on a fully electric skateboard platform developed exclusively for battery-electric vehicles. The result is an entirely new vehicle architecture that fundamentally redefines available living space, vehicle weight, energy integration and onboard comfort.

A Revolutionary Platform Makes This Motorhome Possible

The spectacular motorhome is, in reality, only the first visible proof of a much more fundamental development.

The true innovation lies beneath the floor.

While conventional chassis dictate the vehicle architecture through their engine compartment, transmission, driveshaft and axle layout, the CityFreighter platform integrates the battery system, electric drive, suspension and power electronics into an ultra-low skateboard chassis.

For vehicle manufacturers and system suppliers, this creates design freedoms that have never existed before. For motorhome owners, it translates into significantly more usable living space.

The interior becomes larger, the floor completely flat, the step-in height lower, while interior headroom increases.

Four full-size travel seats, four sleeping places, a flexible bathroom concept and modular lightweight furniture create an interior atmosphere that feels more like a modern loft apartment than a conventional camper.

The Decisive Factor: Lightweight Construction

The greatest challenge facing electric motorhomes is not driving range. It is weight.

Large battery packs often reduce payload or force owners into higher driving licence categories. This joint development addresses precisely that challenge.

Designed for Europe's New 4.25-Tonne Category B Driving Licence

This demonstrator was specifically engineered to meet the requirements of Europe's upcoming **Category B driving licence extension to 4.25 tonnes for fully electric vehicles**.

This new regulation is expected to become one of the key enablers for electric motorhomes by allowing heavier zero-emission recreational vehicles to be driven with a standard passenger car licence.

Vöhringer developed an uncompromising lightweight interior based on its **AIRPLY® technology**. Compared with conventional plywood construction, individual components are up to **45% lighter**, creating exactly the weight savings electric motorhomes require.

Combined with CityFreighter's purpose-built electric platform, this achieves something many industry experts considered almost impossible.

Despite carrying a 128 kWh battery pack, a complete lightweight interior, kitchen, bathroom, heat pump and all onboard appliances, the demonstrator itself weighs less than 3.5 tonnes.

This means that **within the future 4.25-tonne Category B limit, approximately 750 kg (1,650 lbs) of additional payload remains available** for passengers, luggage, bicycles, camping equipment, fresh water or optional features.

It is a powerful demonstration that purpose-built electric architecture can simultaneously deliver long driving range, generous living space and practical payload—without compromise.

Greater Design Freedom – And Better Driving Dynamics

The new vehicle architecture does not simply create more interior space.

It fundamentally changes the proportions of the entire vehicle.

Motive Development, responsible for the exterior design and vehicle architecture, was able to develop the motorhome entirely around the electric skateboard platform—rather than adapting the design to the limitations of a commercial van chassis.

Where today's motorhomes often extend significantly beyond the width of the donor vehicle, the CityFreighter concept integrates the body and wheel housings into one harmonious design. The wheels are positioned at the outer edges of the vehicle, creating a continuous, balanced silhouette.

The shape of the camper is characterized by a sloping roofline at the front and rear, where the side walls also curve slightly inwards. This results in significantly improved aerodynamics without sacrificing essential interior space.

The result is far more than an aesthetic improvement.

The balanced proportions contribute to greater driving stability, more precise handling and significantly improved vehicle dynamics—particularly in crosswinds and during sudden lane changes.

At the same time, the vehicle presents a modern design language that visibly reflects the technological innovation hidden beneath its exterior.

Electric Travel Also Means Electric Living

The battery does far more than power the drivetrain. It becomes the energy source for the entire motorhome.

Induction cooking, air conditioning, refrigeration, coffee machines and even a mobile office can all be powered directly from the traction battery.

With its **128 kWh battery pack**, the demonstrator is designed to deliver a **real-world driving range of over 400 km (250+ miles)**. CityFreighter has already achieved this range under real operating conditions.

Thanks to **200 kW DC fast charging**, the battery can be recharged from **10% to 80% in approximately 20 minutes**, allowing travellers to continue their journey with only a short charging stop.

Integrated photovoltaic modules from **OPES Solar Mobility** further increase both driving range and energy independence. Acting as a solar range extender, they continuously generate electricity while driving and while parked.

This concept demonstrates how the traditional motorhome can evolve into a fully mobile living and working environment. Particularly younger generations embracing remote work increasingly expect this level of flexibility.

One Platform Instead of Many Vehicle Developments

For CityFreighter, this motorhome has a second strategic significance.

It demonstrates for the first time that the same electric vehicle platform can economically serve completely different specialty vehicle segments, including delivery vehicles, municipal vehicles, workshop vehicles, shuttle buses, recreational vehicles and numerous other applications.

Until now, these markets were generally considered too small to justify the development of dedicated vehicle platforms. CityFreighter's modular skateboard architecture combines these volumes on one common technical foundation.

The result is significantly lower development costs, reduced tooling investments and a much faster path to market, making even smaller production volumes commercially viable.

Michael Schoening, Founder and CEO of CityFreighter, explains:

"For us, the term 'niche market' no longer exists. Our skateboard platform creates a highly flexible vehicle architecture that can be adapted to a wide variety of applications. Together with Vöhringer, Motive Development and our industry partners, we are demonstrating for the first time the enormous potential this creates for the recreational vehicle industry."

Rethinking the Relationship Between Vehicle and Battery

CityFreighter is also fundamentally changing the economic lifecycle of electric vehicles.

Vehicle and battery are no longer treated as one inseparable unit.

The battery can be serviced independently, replaced when required or upgraded as future cell technologies become available. In the future, vehicle and battery may even follow separate resale and second-life pathways.

This approach reduces maintenance costs, improves long-term residual value and opens entirely new opportunities for circular economy concepts.

For premium motorhomes that often remain in service for decades, this represents a significant commercial advantage compared with today's conventional vehicle architectures.

A Joint Innovation Project by Leading Caravan and EV Specialists

The concept vehicle was developed through the close collaboration of highly specialised industry partners.

Vöhringer contributed its expertise in lightweight interior construction. Motive Development was responsible for the overall vehicle concept, exterior design and vehicle architecture. CityFreighter developed the fully electric skateboard platform that forms the technical foundation of the project.

Further support was provided by OPES Solar Mobility with its integrated photovoltaic system, Veap Shield United and Euramax for the exterior body panels while Dometic, Isringhausen, Zambelli, Jokon and Nolden each contributed their expertise within their respective fields.

Together, these companies demonstrate how cross-industry collaboration can accelerate innovation and create entirely new opportunities for the future of recreational vehicles.

More Than a World Premiere

The demonstrator presented at CARAVAN SALON is intentionally **not** a finished production vehicle.

It is an invitation—to the entire caravan industry.

An invitation to vehicle manufacturers, body builders, technology partners and suppliers to rethink the electric motorhome from the ground up rather than continuing to adapt platforms originally designed for diesel-powered commercial vehicles.

At the same time, the concept opens up entirely new opportunities for the tourism industry by demonstrating how a sustainable, long-range electric motorhome can become both commercially viable and attractive for future generations of travellers.

CityFreighter is actively seeking forward-looking RV manufacturers and strategic industry partners to jointly industrialise this purpose-built electric platform. Working together, these partnerships will accelerate product development, validate market demand and create the momentum needed to bring the next generation of electric motorhomes into series production.

The world premiere at CARAVAN SALON 2026 therefore represents far more than the unveiling of a new concept vehicle.

It may mark the beginning of a completely new generation of recreational vehicles.

