



Interview of 7th August 2014 with ERIC SORTINO  
Done by SYCOMOREEN

JRV : Ride-on mower, combustion with natural gas, Eric SORTINO's Gas-catalysis Company, Site of Saint Pierre du Mont

JRV : August 7th, 2014, we are in the Gas Catalysis Company by Eric SORTINO, which takes place 63 rue de la Téoulère, 40280 SAINT PIERRE DU MONT (France).

JRV : Sir SORTINO will show us his recent works to get a station of natural gas, and will introduce too the advantages of the site where it is lying.

JRV : Good afternoon Sir SORTINO, we are on your site and close to your garage. So what are the assets of this site to get natural gas for vehicles (NGV) ?

ESC : The advantages that I believe useful to talk about : we are ideally placed because you have behind me the dual carriageway which leads to Saint Sever, and we are at about 500 m from the ring-road, so to come here, it is very simple. Moreover, it will be possible to fill the tank at any time with an automatic device which will be installed.

JRV : So a full tank 24h/24 with the credit-card device. There I see the entry which is very easy to use, especially for heavy trucks. Can you give us more precisions ?

ESC : I think that in a average future, when the dual-fuel will be finally allowed in France for the trucks, I have designed a place where they can get the fuels, we will welcome both light and heavy vehicles.

JRV : yes, we see indeed that it's very practical for heavy trucks to come on this site, because a roundabout way is on this place.

ESC : Right,

JRV : Thus it will avoid difficult moving operations for the big engines.

ESC : Exactly.

JRV : Okay. Here is the NGV station that Sir SORTINO has installed, therefore, Sir SORTINO, you told us a lot about the heavy trucks, but does it apply for other vehicles ?

ESC : Of course. Here you have the example of a little vehicle, a ride-on mower, which works with natural gas and with gasoline. Then naturally, one understands that classical cars and light utility vehicles can benefit from this station.

JRV : I agree, this it's true that this example is very original with the tondeuse autoportée, but any vehicle in the daily life can fill their tank of gas here. Like personal cars, utility vehicles...

ESC : Yes.

JRV : so this station is useful for all the people, both simple man/woman, and professional workers.

ESC : yes, especially for vehicles which are situated close to the station, because for now, the net of NGV station is not very dense.

JRV : Okay. All right.

JRV : Sir SORTINO, the daily people are wondering, how to fill a tank of gas ? May be you will show how it works.

ESC : Very easy, one takes the Pistole of gas, one removes the plug, introduces the pipe and one closes it,

JRV : Okay,

ESC : and we push on the switch to turn on the pump.

JRV : Very good. Thus to fill the tank, it's very simple. It is sufficient to push on this button.

ESC : Absolutely, one pushes on this green button. When the filling is over, as the pressure of tires, it stops. And we remove the pipe of replenishment.

JRV : Okay, let's see the operating tasks to unplug.

ESC : Nothing is easier, one hands again the pipe, and we put back the plug.

JRV : Here it is very easy, safe and secured for the user.

ESC : Nothing is simpler !

JRV : Very nice !

JRV : Here we are in the office of the Catalysis Gas Company of Sir SORTINO, who works already since a long time on the subject about gas for vehicles. So Sir SORTINO, may be can you explain us a bit your experiences and personal history in this field ?

ESC : Yes, I am a master-craftsman, and initially mechanical worker. We have equipped one thousand vehicles with gas, we started with biogas combustion, in agricultural purposes, thus renewable gas. Then we migrated to liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) in the early Eighties, after to NGV (compressed natural gas), and in the 2000's years, I did transformations of engines towards dihydrogen gas. As for now, I'm also responsible for the maintenance of engines of cogeneration which are burning biogas in agricultural enterprises which are producing electricity and selling it on the electric grid.

JRV : Okay, therefore you already have done by yourself more than 1000 gas-working vehicles.

ESC : Yes.

JRV : And in several technical fields around the gas : Biogas, LPG, NGV...

ESC : Exact.

JRV : Sir SORTINO, you are working since 30 years on gas-vehicles, you accumulated a great experience about this subject, could you tell us in a short manner the advantages of this combustion ?

ESC : I think that nowadays, one of the main asset of the gas is to reduce our dependence of our country for the fossile energies. Especially, we only use gasoil in too big amounts, notably for transportations. Nevertheless, LPG and NGV are alternative energies, well known and perfectly mastered, which are allowing to increase the offer, and simply to give more energetic choices.

JRV : Indeed, and probably, there are too economical advantages to use this gases as fuel ?

ESC : The gas-fuels are usually less expensive, and now you can fill your tank everywhere in Europe, thus it is significant. This is not a solitary initiative. It will never stop, in my opinion, we are now in the era of gas.

JRV : Okay, thus there are great perspectives about the energetic independance.

ESC : Simply, what I am noticing : now in 2014, the gas is totally forgotten in the energetic shift. May be it is not a very stimulating topic. Nevertheless regarding the energies in France, the gas is nearly as much as electricity. We talk about electricity, but not about gas.

JRV : Especially about the gas coming from stations of anaerobic digestion.

ESC : Indeed, this is the renewable shape of the natural gas, that we are importing from abroad.

JRV : Yes, the renewable version of the gas.

ESC : Absolutely.

JRV : All right. About your project of station which gives natural gas for vehicles (NGV), can you explain us the planning of your works, opening to customers ?

ESC : At this time, the station is only for private use, for my vehicles, and the tondeuse that you have seen. For long term, naturally and probably around the 2015 year, my goals is to open the station to the people, and then to offer the 24h/24 usual selling service while using credit cards.

JRV : Right. So, as for now, the station is technically tested to grant that everything is working well, and then, in 2015 year, you are foreseeing to open it to the people, especially with a credit card service to take gas at any time.

ESC : Yes, this is right.

JRV : Nice. Thank you very much Sir SORTINO for all this information.

ESC : It was my pleasure.

FIND AGAIN ERIC SORTINO ON : <http://www.catalgaz.fr>



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