International Post Corporation

Omniva rolls out new solar-powered parcel machines in November

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International technology and logistics group Omniva is launching tests of a new type of solar-powered parcel machine this week. Designed to bring parcel services closer to people, the new machines can accommodate parcels as large as those handled by conventional parcel machines at shopping centres, but require no electricity connection.

The new machines are battery-powered and charged by solar panels. Each machine has approximately 40 compartments, with the option to increase capacity by adding extra modules as demand grows.

A total of 69 machines will be installed in Tallinn, Riga, Vilnius and Kaunas throughout November and December. The first locations have been selected near Omniva's logistics centres, allowing close monitoring during winter. The machines will be available to customers for sending and receiving parcels from day one.

Throughout the winter, Omniva will assess the machines' power supply, reliability and ease of use. If the technology proves reliable through the Baltic winter, Omniva plans to continue expanding its close-to-home parcel network with the new machines next spring.

Omniva began developing its close-to-home parcel network this spring with the introduction of smaller battery-powered machines, known as community parcel machines.

"Our goal is to bring parcel services closer to everyone – figuratively speaking, to every street corner in densely populated areas and every village in rural areas. As community parcel machines have shallower compartments than conventional machines, they work well in areas where a larger parcel machine is also nearby. For example, in Rae municipality, small machines on street corners complement the larger machines at local shops," said Tanel Raun, Head of Parcel Machine Network Product at Omniva.

"However, in sparsely populated areas, where the nearest larger parcel machine or post office may be far away, it is important that people can also send and receive larger parcels close to home. That is why we are now testing machines with deeper compartments and new technology," Raun added.

All test machines will have touchscreens, allowing customers to collect parcels and send pre-registered shipments without a smartphone. In the future, Omniva also plans to introduce screenless models that will require its mobile app.

Source: Omniva

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