

ALTERNATIVE FUELS

Toyota joins London Hydrogen Partnership

Toyota has joined the Mayor of London's London Hydrogen Partnership (LHP), a public-private partnership that accelerates the commercialisation of hydrogen fuel cell technologies in London. Over the last few years the LHP has initiated over £50 million worth of hydrogen projects; rolling-out new hydrogen buses, taxis, scooters, refueling stations, materials handling vehicles and fuel cell Combined Heat and Power units to London.

Deputy Mayor, Kit Malthouse (pictured below left with Toyota's Katsuhiko Hirose), said: "We want Toyota and the London Hydrogen Partnership to develop a roadmap for fuel cell vehicles and hydrogen refueling station rollout. Toyota will provide invaluable insights and bring global experience to the Mayor's innovative 'smart' low carbon low emission transport activities. I welcome their commitment to London's positive economic future."



INDUSTRY

SMMT backs major campaign to reduce the number of MoT failures



Self-service: manufacturer main dealers will advise motorists on simple pre-MoT visual checks to make before the test itself

A nationwide campaign to help motorists reduce MoT failures, backed by 5,545 manufacturer main dealers, has been launched across the UK.

Research from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) indicates that around 1.5 million MoT failures each year

could be avoided if motorists notify the dealer of simple problems with the vehicle before the annual roadworthiness test is carried out. In the biggest campaign of its type, 5,545 manufacturer main dealers will be giving guidance to motorists on the simple pre-MoT visual checks they can carry out on their own car.

Taking just a 'Minute Or Two', the 10-step checklist takes vehicle owners through a series of quick-and-easy checks – from headlights and tyres to windscreen wipers and fluid levels. By forewarning the dealership of any required work in advance of the MoT, motorists can then give their vehicle the best chance of passing the test first time around. The full 'Minute Or Two' checklist can be viewed at www.passmymot.co.uk, where visitors can also use a Garage Finder tool to locate their nearest dealer.

"The message that we are keen to get across to motorists is that an MoT fail could very easily be avoided if a simple visual check is carried out beforehand," explains Mike Baunton, SMMT Interim Chief Executive.

"Technicians at manufacturer main dealerships across the UK are ready and willing to help vehicle owners carry out the visual inspection before the test, and to rectify any issues before conducting a manufacturer-guaranteed MoT."

EVs

Renault to offer free domestic charging box with every ZOE

Renault has announced it will offer a free domestic charging point with every purchase of its flagship electric vehicle, ZOE.

The free Single Wall-box, supplied and installed by British Gas is available both to new customers, as well as those who've already pre-ordered ZOE.

This offer makes the most of the recently announced 75 per cent support on domestic Wall-box installations as part of the government's £37m grant funding to increase take up of electric vehicles, with Renault contributing the remaining 25 per cent. The ground-breaking offer will save a typical customer up to £500. company car tax savings in the near term. Managing director Martin Brown said:

"We believe hybrids have a growing role to play in near-term company car policy, at least while the 3 per cent diesel supplement remains in place, providing drivers with conventionally sized company cars but minus the tax bill."



New Forest to offer electric Twizys for visitors

The New Forest is the country's first destination to offer a fleet of Twizy electric vehicles with a comprehensive charge point network as a fun and innovative way to explore its stunning scenery. The Twizy two-seaters will offer a truly 'green' stay for visitors who can arrive at the main train station at Brockenhurst, hire a Twizy and make use of a network of 20 charge points at hotels, B&Bs, holiday parks and attractions throughout the New Forest.

The funky electric vehicles can reach a top speed of 50mph and travel for up to 62 miles after charging as they drive around the New Forest's pretty towns, villages and panoramic coastline saving money and carbon all day long. The £49-a-day Twizy rental package comes with a Brand New Forest Card which offers hundreds of discounts at pubs, restaurants and attractions which are part of the charge point network.

Six of the charge points are at Fullers pubs, while others include Cycle Experience bike hire and New Forest Activities, where you can leave your Twizy charging while you take part in the activities.

CONCEPT VEHICLES

Hyundai's one-person egg car with no wheels

Hyundai has designed an egg-shaped concept vehicle at the Seoul MoTor Show, in South Korea.

The 'E4U' is an oval-shaped, open-topped single person 'scooter' similar to a Segway.

But doing away with the traditional two-wheel design, the prototype instead uses a 'rotating semispherical part' – which looks like the lower half of a sphere and is constantly rotating.

The driver stands on a small platform and directs the vehicle by tilting it so that different sides of the semisphere contact the ground.



Hyundai E4U: brings a whole new meaning to 'going to work on an egg'

EV DEVELOPMENT

1,000 mile electric car in development

An electric car which could potentially do 1,000 miles is set for release in 2013, online MoToring magazine *MoTortrades Insight* has revealed.

"I can tell you that there will be a vehicle that will do Land's End to John O'Groats on a single charge next year," said Ian Hobday, CEO of UK electric car manufacturers, Liberty Electric Cars.

The vehicle will be capable of a range between 837 to 1,000 miles – four times the

furthest range of electric cars currently available on the market. Potentially a car would be capable of reaching far into Europe without need for a recharge.

The battery technology has been developed by Metaelectric Ltd using proprietary metal-air electric power technologies. The revolutionary technology means that long range electric-only vehicles could finally become a reality for the mass-consumer car market.

EV CHARGING

Project to assess the impact of EV charging on the grid

A project that aims to solve the potential impact that the recharging of electric vehicles (EVs) may have on the local electricity network, is now officially underway following final sign-off by Ofgem.

As sales of electric vehicles increase, there is a need to assess the potential impact that a cluster of EVs may have in a local area served by one electricity substation. In the event of all EVs being recharged at the same time, and without any preparation,

the load on the local electricity network may exceed the substation capacity.

The project, My Electric Avenue, is looking for ten 'electric avenues' – groups or 'clusters' of ten people or more – where each person will drive an electric car for 18 months to trial a new technology which will monitor and control the electricity used when the car is being charged.

Find out more about the project at www.MyElectricAvenue.info



Andy Eastlake Chancellor signals support for low carbon transport

It's clear that the government has a soft spot for the autoMoTive sector right now. One of the economy's few bright areas, the sector has delivered good progress on emissions (down again – by 3.6 per cent last year according to the SMMT) and – probably more significant for the government at this point – stimulating high-tech investments and exports.

In his recent Budget, the Chancellor announced further funding for the car sector to support innovation. (Details will emerge in the summer as a part of the AutoMoTive Sector Strategy). There was also some further encouraging news for fleet and business users of lower carbon cars.

Two new Company Car Tax (CCT) bands will be introduced from April 2015. The two new bands will be at 0-50g/km of carbon dioxide and 51-75g/km CO₂. To help businesses plan more effectively, in future years CCT rates will be announced three years in advance.

On capital allowances for ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEV) cars used for business, the Chancellor had already said that the 100 per cent First Year Allowance would be extended until 2015 for cars emitting 95g/km CO₂. In the latest Budget he announced a further three year extension – to 2018 – for cars emitting 75g/km CO₂ or less. This will maintain the financial incentive for businesses to purchase (though not lease) ULEVs.

New tax rules were already scheduled to take effect this month which the Fleet Alliance says make a compelling case for including hybrid vehicles, in particular, in fleet policies.

A report from Cambridge Econometrics also caught my eye this month. The study says that while European regulations on cars and CO₂ will add to producers' costs, this will be more than paid back in reduced costs for vehicle users and will also provide a boost to the economy and jobs.

All the key signals, I think, point to the fact that future policy is going to provide more and more encouragement to business and other users to adopt low carbon vehicles.

The LowCVP 2013 Annual Conference will take place on Thursday 11 July, central London. For more information visit www.lowcvp.org.uk

FURTHER INFORMATION
www.lowcvp.org.uk

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