

Media Release

Thursday 10 September 2015

LowCVP Low Carbon Champions Award Winners celebrated at packed networking dinner

- **Award winners demonstrate innovation and dynamic progress in all areas lowering road transport emissions**
- **Outlander PHEV success helps Mitsubishi win Car Manufacturer Award**
- **Optare scoops 'Grand Prix' Award for driving UK electric bus adoption**

The Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership (LowCVP) announced the Low Carbon Champions for 2014-15 last night at a packed gala dinner held in association with Cenex in Milton Keynes. The Champions Awards celebrate achievement and innovation in low carbon road transport.

Optare received the 'Grand Prix' award for Outstanding Achievement in Low Carbon Transport (winner of winners) in a celebration hosted by TV personality Robert Llewellyn. Mitsubishi took the award in the prestigious Low Carbon Car/Van Manufacturer of the Year category.

TV personality, writer and blogger Robert Llewellyn was Master of Ceremonies, presenting the Awards at the Double Tree by Hilton, MK Dons Stadium, at a networking dinner attended by over 380 industry representatives and low carbon transport stakeholders.

The LowCVP Managing Director Andy Eastlake said about the Awards: "It's always a pleasure to celebrate success and there were many reasons to commend the contribution of this year's entries to cutting emissions, both of greenhouse gases and local pollutants.

"The winning entries – and those recognised as runners-up and short-listed – are exciting examples of a vibrant and innovative low carbon road transport sector in the UK that is going from strength to strength."

The judges said that Mitsubishi's Outlander – which helped the company scoop the car manufacturer award - has been a game-changer, bringing plug-in hybrid technology to a 4x4 SUV, at a competitive price. The model has achieved impressive sales, especially in the company car market, where carbon-based taxation has helped to boost sales of lower carbon vehicles.

Optare and Scania were joint winners of the Low Carbon Heavy Duty Vehicle Manufacturer of the Year Award. The judges decided to award both companies as their entries covered activities in different market sectors (Optare for buses and Scania for trucks and delivery vehicles).

Optare was the recipient of the Grand Prix Award. The judges said that this recognition was because Optare is the UK market leader in electric buses and has taken significant commercial risk in achieving this position. Optare's buses have made an important contribution to improving air quality in UK towns and cities as well as reducing the well-to-wheel carbon footprint by over 50% in comparison with equivalent diesels.

The judges' statement said that "Optare has a real pedigree in terms of battery innovation and has worked extremely well in building partnerships with local authorities."

The judging panel was comprised of 21 senior executives from across the range of organisations with a stake in the low carbon road transport agenda.

Michael Hurwitz, Director, Energy, Technology & International at the Department for Transport and one of the Awards judges, said: "These awards are a fantastic opportunity to recognise the achievements of the low carbon transport sector and to celebrate the excellence of UK innovation. It is exciting to see such vibrant ideas and cutting edge technologies as the government continues to support industry with £500 million invested in low emission vehicles over the next 5 years."

Alex Burns, Chief Executive of Millbrook, the Champions Awards headline sponsors, said: ""The UK is a major force in the production of electric buses and we are pleased to present the award for this category to an outstanding organisation that is helping to cut carbon emissions and improve air quality.

"As an organisation committed to the test, validation and engineering of low carbon transport, Millbrook is proud to present the 'Grand Prix' award to Optare."

Darren Messemer, Chairman of the LowCVP and also an Awards Judge said: "The UK vehicle market is at the forefront of innovation in low carbon technology, production and operation, which is essential to deliver the decarbonisation of transport needed to mitigate the worst effects of climate change.

"In this year's LowCVP Champions Awards it's been a privilege once again to recognise innovations spanning the breadth of the transport sector, and we hope this helps provide further stimulus to the innovators working hard throughout the sector."

Robert Evans, Chief Executive of Cenex said: "We are pleased to be able to host this industry gathering as part of our Cenex-LCV2015 networking dinner. The LCV2015 event brings the low carbon vehicle community together for two days of technology showcasing and networking, with the evening dinner extending valuable networking time.

"As one of the dinner attendees joining from the LCV event, I commend all those nominated for an Award and congratulate the winners."

PICTURES FROM THE AWARDS PRESENTATIONS ARE [AVAILABLE HERE:](#)

(<https://goo.gl/photos/CJS5gjQjt9XmR7dB6>)

FULL LIST OF AWARDS

'Grand Prix Award': Outstanding Achievement in Low Carbon Transport (Winner of winners)

Winner: **Optare**

Outstanding Individual in Promoting Low Carbon Transport

Joint Award: **Professor Neville Jackson, Ricardo; Dr Doug Parr, Greenpeace UK**

Low Carbon Car /Van Manufacturer of the Year

Winner: **Mitsubishi Motors UK**

Shortlisted: VW; Nissan

Low Carbon Heavy Duty Vehicle Manufacturer of the Year

Joint Winners: **Optare and Scania GB**

Shortlisted: Leyland Trucks; BYD Europe B.V

Low Carbon Vehicle Operator of the Year

Winner: **Dundee City Council**

Runners up: First Bus with City of York

Short-listed: Reading Buses

Low Carbon Fuel Initiative of the Year

Winner: **Convert2Green & United Biscuits**

Short-listed: GENeco; Rapid Charge Network

2015 Award for Low Carbon Innovation by an SME

Joint Winners: **Avid Technology; Wirth Research**

Short-listed: Ashwoods Lightfoot Ltd, Dearman

Low Carbon Road Transport Initiative of the Year

Winner: **GENeco**

Highly Commended: Aberdeen City Council

Short-listed: ECO Stars

2014 Outstanding Low Carbon Publication or Report

Winner: **Urban Foresight**

Runners-up: UK Power Networks

Highly Commended: ICCT (Wasted); Element Energy

ANNEX

LowCVP Low Carbon Champions Awards

Category Winners

'Grand Prix' Award: Outstanding Achievement in Low Carbon Transport (Sponsor: Millbrook)

Optare (Winner)

The judges said: "Optare is the UK market leader in the production of electric buses – a sector in which the UK has been amongst the world's leaders... We were impressed by the multi-faceted approach taken by this company to lowering carbon emissions."

Optare PR Contact - Rebecca Green, Marketing, Press and Events Manager, Optare, 07810 158415, Rebecca.Green@Optare.com

Outstanding Individual in Promoting Lower Carbon Transport

Professor Neville Jackson (Joint Winner)

The judges said: "Wherever Low Carbon Transport innovation is mentioned, Professor Neville Jackson's name is likely to appear in the next sentence. His list of publications runs to more than four pages and his co-authors read like a 'who's who' of the powertrain sector."

Ricardo PR Contact - Anthony Smith, Media Office, Ricardo, 01273 382 710, media@ricardo.com

Dr Doug Parr (Joint Winner)

The judges said: "Where passions have been roused on complex subjects such as biofuels, Doug Parr's has been a clear voice of reason, helping to navigate the stormy waters. When calls have been made to throw all our eggs into a single technology basket, he has helped to articulate the balanced approach needed."

Greenpeace PR Contact - Graham Thompson, Press Office, Greenpeace UK; 020 7865 8126, 07801 212 960; graham.thompson@greenpeace.org

Low Carbon Car / Van Manufacturer of the Year (Sponsor: EDF Energy)

Mitsubishi Motors UK (Winner)

The judges said: "Mitsubishi has been an early adopter and was ready to take a risk which has paid off in terms of vehicle registrations."

Mitsubishi Motors PR Contact – Keir Bartlett, Press Officer, Mitsubishi Motors UK, 01285 647200, k.bartlett@mitsubishi-cars.co.uk

Low Carbon Heavy Duty Vehicle Manufacturer of the Year (Sponsor: Freight in the City)

Optare (Joint Winner)

The judges said: "Optare has the largest presence in the market and demonstrates a holistic approach to delivering the product."

Optare PR Contact – Rebecca Green, Marketing, Press and Events Manager, Optare, 07810 158415, Rebecca.Green@Optare.com

Scania GB (Joint Winner)

About the Scania gas chassis, the judges said: "Scania has been observing and evaluating the market and then delivered an exceptionally good product with lower associated risk."

Scania PR Contact – Alan Martin, Manager Special Projects, Fleet Sales, Scania (Great Britain) Limited, 01909 500822, Alan.Martin@scania.com

Low Carbon Vehicle Operator of the Year (Sponsor: BAE Systems HybriDrive)

Dundee City Council (Winner)

The judges said: "Dundee City Council has put into practice what they preach using alternative fuel technologies and encouraging other cities to do the same. Dundee has demonstrated a strategic approach to both fleet and infrastructure and carefully thought about perceptions and users' experience."

Dundee City Council PR Contact – Lewis Thomson, Public Relations Officer, Dundee City Council Public Relations, 01382 434194, lewis.thomson@dundeecity.gov.uk

Low Carbon Fuel Initiative of the Year (Sponsor: Route Monkey)

Convert2Green Ltd (Winner)

The judges said: "The work that C2G has done to achieve integration of waste reduction, feedstock collection, biofuel production and greening of operations made this approach stand out as particularly innovative and effective."

C2G PR Contact – Kate Mortimer, Group Marketing and Communications Manager, Olleco, 01604 857 030, katemortimer@olleco.co.uk

2015 Award for Low Carbon Innovation by an SME (Sponsor: Advanced Propulsion Centre)

AVID Technology (Joint Winner)

AVID Technology improves the efficiency and emissions of heavy-duty vehicles, through the electrification of ancillary systems. The judges said: "AVID has shown leadership in electrifying ancillary systems to achieve efficiency gains in heavy duty vehicles."

Avid Technology PR Contact – Louise Fice, Finance Director, Avid Technology, 01670 707040, louise.fice@avidgr.com

Wirth Research (Joint Winner)

The Judges said: "Wirth Research has applied cutting edge expertise to reduce aerodynamic drag from HGVs."

Wirth Research PR Contact – James Andrew, 0207 287 9610, james@influenceassociates.com

Low Carbon Road Transport Initiative of the Year (Sponsor: Bosch Global)

GENeco Bio-Bus (Winner)

GENeco's Bio-Bus is the only vehicle in the UK fuelled by biomethane gas produced from a mixture of food waste, commercial liquid waste and domestic sewage. The judges said: "GENeco has managed to capture a lot of public

imagination with a ground-breaking innovation which uses a mix of waste that otherwise wouldn't have another use."

GENeco PR Contact: – Ian Drury, Media and PR Manager, Wessex Water, 01225 526329,
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Low Carbon Publication or Report of the Year (Sponsor: IMechE)

Urban Foresight (Winner)

The EV City Casebook profiles 50 world-changing ideas that will shape the future of electric mobility. It provides insight and analysis on policies, projects, technologies and business models implemented in 23 countries across six continents. The judges said: "Urban Foresight's guide brings together important stakeholders at international level with highly tangible outcomes."

Urban Foresight PR Contact - David Beeton, Managing Director, Urban Foresight, 0191 495 7350
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PICTURES FROM THE AWARDS PRESENTATIONS ARE [AVAILABLE HERE](#).

Background information

The Low Carbon Champions Awards were established in 2010. The Awards – now in their fifth edition - are an initiative of the Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership (LowCVP); a public-private partnership that exists to accelerate a sustainable shift to lower carbon vehicles and fuels and create opportunities for UK businesses. Around 200 organisations are engaged from diverse backgrounds including government, automotive and fuel supply chains, vehicle users, academics, environment groups and wider society. www.lowcvp.org.uk

For more details on the Awards categories see: www.lowcvp.org.uk/lowcarbonchampions

Media Contacts

For further information about the Awards or to book an interview with LowCVP MD Andy Eastlake contact:
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