

LOWCVP NEWS RELEASE

4 September 2012

How we'll get around in the cities of the future: The LowCVP announces Technology Challenge winners

The Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership (LowCVP) has announced the winners of the Low Carbon Urban Mobility Technology Challenge – a competition to identify and promote low carbon innovations with the potential to cut carbon emissions and other environmental impacts arising from transport in cities.

The – in many cases futuristic - ideas proffer solutions to the problems posed by the need to travel in crowded urban areas. The winning proposals include a lightweight, driverless electric bus; a system to improve the efficiency of urban freight transport; a bus-taxi hybrid (a 'buxi'); a low carbon, community-managed car club; plus two variants of lightweight, single seat electric vehicles.

The winning entrants were selected by an independent expert panel and will present their solutions to a specialist group of executives from vehicle manufacturers and other potential investors or supporters at a private event to be held in early October.

The winners are:

- Capoco Design Ltd
- Ecospin Ltd
- Esoterix Systems Ltd
- Hugh Frost Designs Ltd
- SusMobil Ltd
- WeatherVelo Ltd

The LowCVP Low Carbon Urban Mobility Technology Challenge follows the LowCVP's successful 'Challenge' format of previous years, including the 2010 Challenge which brought forward innovative technical solutions for cutting carbon from heavy goods vehicles.

The LowCVP Managing Director, Andy Eastlake, said: "The LowCVP's Technology Challenge shows how adept UK engineers and other specialists can be in developing innovative and effective concepts and solutions. The Challenge brings these great ideas for reducing the impact of our movements around cities to the attention of potential partners and customers providing new market opportunities for some outstanding UK businesses.

“The ideas again challenge conventional thinking and show how different approaches to mobility might reduce the overall carbon impact significantly.”

Dave Greenwood of Ricardo Ltd and Chair of the LowCVP’s Innovation Working Group (IWG) said: “The IWG actively seeks to promote development and deployment of new technologies to reduce CO2 and for the commercial benefit of the UK. Our series of technology challenges are devised to encourage new, sometimes radical thinking and to provide the winners with a platform to assist their ideas in gaining commercial traction. We are delighted by the breadth of the applications received and by the quality of the winning submissions. Once again the UK has shown its capacity for directed innovation.”

Past LowCVP Challenges have focused on innovative technologies for passenger cars and heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) and also brought forward new ideas in the areas of policy, marketing and community engagement.

A past winner’s testimonial: “Winning the LowCVP Technology Challenge raised awareness of our technology not just at a national level but internationally, with interest being received from prospective customers and co-developers around the world.” David Tonery, Managing Director, Oxy-Gen Combustion

Notes to Editors

The six winning entrants to the LowCVP 2012 Technology Challenge were selected on a competitive basis from entries covering a variety of solutions. Their selection by an expert panel was based on the merits and impacts of their technology for reducing vehicle CO₂ emissions, commercial viability and ease of integration.

The judges included senior representatives of: the Technology Strategy Board; the Transport Research Laboratory; the Institution of Mechanical Engineers; the Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership and other leading industrial organisations and experts drawn from the LowCVP’s wide membership.

The winners of the LowCVP’s Technology Challenge are:

Capoco Design Ltd

Capoco Design’s Mobilicity system is a collective system that uses lightweight, electrically-powered, driverless pods to transport people far more efficiently than current transport designs. The current design can carry up to 24 passengers, including 11 seats and 1 wheelchair space. Research for the system, which bundles a number of advanced technologies began in 2002. Capoco is now seeking funding for technology demonstrators.

For more information contact: Alan Ponsford, Design Director. Tel. 01722 716 722 Email: alanp@capoco.co.uk

Ecospin Ltd

Ecospin is a research, design and development company which has developed the World's first road-legal, 3-wheeled, stand-on, rear wheel-powered electric vehicle. The vehicle, called Raptor, is aimed at business-to-business organisations such as the police, airport security, post office deliveries, paramedics and a range of private organisations.

For more information contact: Tim Cant, Director. Tel. 0116 222 1234 Email:

tim.cant@ecospinltd.com

Esoterix Systems Ltd

Esoterix is a Bristol-based start-up dedicated to developing and deploying novel solutions to urban transport problems. 'Buxi' is Esoterix's flagship product. It combines the efficiency of a bus with the flexibility of a taxi. Users book journeys at short notice and a buxi vehicle provides door-to-door transport at an agreed time. Passengers share the vehicle space, and cost, with others. The designers say the system is affordable, convenient and reliable.

For more information contact: David Stewart, CEO. Tel. 0117 905 5030 Email:

david.stewart@esoterix.co.uk

Hugh Frost Designs Ltd

Hugh Frost Designs is an independent design company working in the area of green transport and supply chain logistics. It entered three individual projects with a fourth that combines key elements:

- Freight*Lift – removes the requirement for the pallet (1billion + are wasted annually)
- Cool*Run – combined with Freight*Lift enables transport of multi-temperature products in one vehicle without traditional chillers and insulated body constraints
- Freight*Bus – utilises surplus bus capacity at off peak times to transport freight
- 'To-you *it's local*' model – consolidates above technologies into a unique system for businesses

For more information contact: Hugh Frost, Managing Director. Tel. 01636 653017 Email:

hugh@hughfrostdesigns.co.uk

SusMobil Ltd

SusMobil presented a design for a low carbon, community-managed car club specifically aimed at short inner-city journeys. A micro-factory will be established in each city employing staff to assemble the vehicles, install and manage the infrastructure and train in engineering and technology skills. SusMobil proposes placing a fleet of cars, and a network of charging points allowing local residents and business users to access low carbon vehicles for 'short-hop' journeys with a simple per-minute hire charge.

For more information contact: Phil Edwards, Director. Tel. 01825 761890 Email:

pe@susmobil.org.uk

WeatherVelo Ltd

WeatherVelo specialises in eco-vehicles for personal urban mobility, to bridge the gap between two-wheelers and cars. The WeatherVelo 'Prime' cabin-scooter is a pure-electric single-seat vehicle weighing under 150kg for optimal energy efficiency: less than 8g/km CO2 well-to-wheel. It is a slender and manoeuvrable three-wheeler with roofline equivalent to cars, for safety in traffic. The working prototype is nearing completion.

For more information contact: Simon Bailey, Director. Tel. 020 8487 0022 Email:

simon@weathervelo.com

The Challenge winners will present their ideas to a specialist group of executives from vehicle manufacturers and other potential investors or supporters at a private event to be held in early October.

The **Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership** (LowCVP) (www.lowcvp.org.uk) was established in 2003 to take a lead in accelerating the shift to low carbon vehicles and fuels in the UK and to help ensure that UK business can benefit from that shift. It has around 200 organisations amongst its membership from the automotive and fuel industries, the environmental sector, government, academia, road user groups and other organisations with a stake in the low carbon vehicles and fuels agenda. The LowCVP receives most of its funding from the Department for Transport but is increasing revenues from member contributions and other sources.

The Committee on Climate Change has identified Transport as one of the most challenging areas for reducing emissions in the context of the Government's overall climate change strategy. Road transport now contributes around 20% of total UK greenhouse gas emissions and the sector's share of the total has been rising.

Sponsor of this year's Technology Challenge is:

TRL (the UK's Transport Research Laboratory): one of the world's foremost centres of transport R&D and consultancy services. Offering services in policy development and support, product testing and certification, independent advice and training, TRL works with public and private sector clients in the UK and is a key international player in sustainable development and climate change, working with international bodies and funding institutions.

Media Enquiries

Neil Wallis, Head of Communications, neil.wallis@lowcvp.org.uk 07974 255 720

Website: www.lowcvp.org.uk