

**BWG-P-05-004**

**Secretariat Report**  
**May 2005**

This note provides an update on LowCVP activities during April and complements the Quarterly Report supplied to the Board at the end of March.

**1. Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation (RTFO) Feasibility Study**

LowCVP has been contributing to the Government's feasibility study into a renewable transport fuels obligation by specifically considering the role of carbon certification and sustainability assurance within the proposed scheme. A consortium of E4Tech, Imperial College and ECCM has been appointed to conduct the feasibility study which is being overseen by a LowCVP project steering group including representatives of all major interests. The Phase 1 report was completed in April and provided a detailed scope for the options to be considered in detail within Phase 2.

DEFRA has agreed to fund LowCVP to undertake the Phase 2 work that is almost complete and will be discussed at the next fuels Working Group.

**2. Biofuels Standard & Assurance Scheme**

A subgroup has been established to develop a single, independent, voluntary sustainability biofuels assurance scheme for the UK probably through BSI. The secretariat is working with BSI to specify the work and with environmental groups to identify priority issues. The intention is that a BSI Publicly Available Specification should be produced as a precursor to a full British Standard and ultimately European and/or ISO Standard. A specification has been sent to BSI to take forward the work.

The Director also productively met with the Home Grown Cereals Authority to discuss their involvement in development of the Standard.

**3. CENEX**

The first meeting of Cenex (Centre of Excellence for Low Carbon and Automotive Technology) members and Board was held on the 4<sup>th</sup> May. The meeting confirmed the following organisations have joined as members and have had representatives elected to the Board:

- SMMT, Ricardo, Mira, Caterpillar, Conekt TWR, Air Products, Johnson Matthey, Millbrook.

Two organisations joined as members but decided not to stand for the Board:

- UKPIA, Intelligent Energy

In addition, the Cenex Board invited the DTI and LowCVP to put forward representatives. The LowCVP Board is presently considering whether to take up this opportunity. The Cenex Board also proposes to offer a position to the new Cenex CEO (when appointed).

Cenex has returned the grant offer letter from the DTI providing £6.5M of funding has been made available. A further £750k to support knowledge transfer activities is expected to be forthcoming.

Cenex members have agreed early activities will focus upon:

- Communications activities – to disseminate to stakeholders the existence and vision and mission of the new centre and how organisations can participate
- Achieving a quick win through a bid to the DTI Technology Call regarding Validation of Complex Systems
- Developing the business plan
- Securing KTN funding and agreeing initial activities
- Leverage demand pull through public procurement – linking to the EIU initiative
- Recruitment of a CEO and securing interim resources.

#### **4. Board Meeting**

A Board Meeting was held on the 6<sup>th</sup> April at the RAC Club. The agenda addressed:

- Feedback from the LowCVP Conference & Workshops
- Cenex
- Strategy Implementation Plan
- Work Programme 2005
- Communications Strategy
- Consumer Study – not covered due to lack of time.

#### **5. Climate Change Solutions Seminar**

LowCVP hosted a session at the Climate Change Solutions Conference in Birmingham at the NEC on 25 May 2005. Entitled “**Accelerating the shift to low carbon vehicles and fuels**” the event was chaired by the Partnership Director and is part of a wider 3-day programme of seminars. The LowCVP Programme included the following presentations:

- Prof. Abigail Bristow, Loughborough University and Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research – Road transport’s contribution to climate change

- Andrew Owens MBE, Chairman, Greenergy Fuels Ltd: "How can biofuels be supported - voluntary and mandatory mechanisms"
- Nick Vandervell, Communications Director, UK Petroleum Industry Association (UKPIA) – "Gaseous and other fuel solutions"
- Steve Cautley, Manager (Fuel Economy, CO<sub>2</sub> and Climate Change), Ford Motor Company – New technologies for low carbon vehicles
- Ben Lane, Ecolane Ltd – "The consumer and low carbon choices"
- Dr David Hart, Head of Hydrogen Research, Imperial College – "Fuel cells and hydrogen – the future?"
- Colin Mathews, TransportEnergy, Energy Saving Trust (EST) – The new TransportEnergy Programmes

The event was attended by about 50 people and produced a high quality of presentations and debate. Presentations will be made available through the web-site.

## **6. Membership**

Requests for membership have been accepted from:

- Saab
- Bradford University
- Neste oil (Finland)
- Enviro-cars
- Modec
- De Montford University

Three applications have been declined from unsuitable applicants.

## **7. Communications Activities**

The LowCVP secretariat attended the launch of the SMMT New Car Registration CO<sub>2</sub> report at which the Director presented work from the consumer car-buyer study.

The Director attended, and presented, at a one-day workshop examining how to move forward towards a possible hydrogen future. He outlined the key challenges for hydrogen powered vehicles and emphasised the need for further Government led coordination to make progress.

The Director spoke at the EAST conference and awards (for which he also acted as a judge).

Members were emailed to encourage them to create links to the LowCVP website from their own websites and to more actively promote and advertise their involvement in the Partnership.

Initial discussions have commenced with a number of organisations to participate within the Party Conference season. At present the intention is to

Speak at a number of fringe events organised by other organisations rather than run a LowCVP event as was done last year with UKPIA.

The Director made the Key Note Address at the Clean Energy Expo Conference in London on the 6<sup>th</sup> May.

## **8. Other activities**

The Director attended the Government Climate Change Programme Stakeholders Forum.

The Director met with Azure Dynamics to discuss their “Part of the Solution” partnership activities to promote electric and hybrid vehicles. He agreed to keep the group informed of LowCVP activities and collaborate if appropriate opportunities arose.

The Director attended the launch of the BP sustainability report.

The Deputy Director attended the Cars21 stakeholder workshop in Brussels.

The Director and Deputy attended the UKPIA seminar on tackling climate change.

The Director met with Nasamax, EEMS and EST to discuss possible joint activities and will develop a proposal for a joint LowCVP / EEMS workshop.

The Director attended a VIEWSL Biofuels seminar in Brussels. The event highlighted the different agendas of the UK and Europe in encouraging biofuels (GHG saving for the UK, new agricultural markets in Europe). Significant new contacts were established which will be important in pursuing an agenda that ensures market development activities for biofuels to ensure GHG savings are achieved.

The Director met with representatives from the Swedish EPA to discuss common challenges in reducing CO2 from vehicles. He was informed that Sweden planned to create a LowCVP equivalent. The Director offered the Partnership’s support in the initiative through providing any advice and relevant learning’s from the UK.

The Innovation Working Group met in Oxford at the BMW Cowley Mini Plant. A number of those attending enjoyed an excellent tour of the facility.

A small amount of the underspend from the 0405 financial year has been used to print and frame relevant pictures of Partnership activities to display in the office, meeting room and adjacent EST meeting room which is frequently used for LowCVP activities. As a result the appearance of these rooms has significantly improved.

## **9. Staffing issues**

Interviews were held for an Interim Deputy Director to replace Konstanze for 4 months. After some negotiation it was agreed two EST staff (Andrew Robinson and Steven Hart) and would be temporarily seconded to LowCVP to each fulfil the role on a part-time basis.

An advertisement and job specification for the fulltime position has been prepared and will be circulated.

Catherine Dove rejoined LowCVP as Office Manager. She will ultimately spend 2 days per week supporting communications and membership activities.

Neil Wallis agreed a further 1 year, 3 day per week contract as Communications Adviser.

## **10. Future Activities**

Future LowCVP activities include:

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| 8 <sup>th</sup> June  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Cenex Board meeting                 |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> June | Passenger Cars Working Group<br>Fuels Working Group |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> June | Steering Group meeting                              |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> July  | Launch of the car labelling scheme                  |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> July | Board meeting                                       |