

# Technology Strategy Board

## Driving Innovation

### Press release

16 November 2011

#### **Additional investment to accelerate commercialisation of low carbon vehicle technologies**

An additional £10 million of grant funding is to be made available to research, develop and demonstrate technologies that will achieve significant cuts in carbon emissions from road transport, following a government decision to provide supplementary finance through the Technology Strategy Board.

In October the Business Secretary, Vince Cable, announced that the government planned to invest a further £15 million in projects to accelerate the commercialisation of low carbon vehicles, through a competition for grant funding to be managed by the Technology Strategy Board ([www.innovateuk.org](http://www.innovateuk.org)). The Office for Low Emission Vehicles ([www.dft.gov.uk/topics/sustainable/olev/](http://www.dft.gov.uk/topics/sustainable/olev/)) is to provide additional grant funding and £25 million will now be available to UK businesses.

The additional investment in this funding competition follows the decision by the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) to channel the funding it has available for low carbon vehicle technology research and development through the Technology Strategy Board, which is the government's innovation agency. This will see around £65 million of R&D grant funding from OLEV delivered to UK industry by the Technology Strategy Board in the four years to March 2015.

Transport Minister Norman Baker said:

“We need to continue to invest seriously in innovative research and development if we are to put the UK at the forefront of low carbon vehicle technology. Strengthening our capabilities and adopting new technologies are vital if we are to make this country an attractive location for investment by global vehicle manufacturers and suppliers.

“Speeding up the commercialisation of low carbon vehicle technologies will contribute to achieving UK and EU climate change targets, help grow the economy, create high value jobs and provide significant global market opportunities for UK-based companies.”

The £25 million grant funding will be delivered through a collaborative R&D competition managed by the Technology Strategy Board, working closely with OLEV, which will provide £19 million of the funding. As

the Government grants will match-fund investment by the participating businesses, the total value of the research and development projects will be at least £50 million.

Iain Gray, Chief Executive of the Technology Strategy Board, added:

“The decision by the Office for Low Emission Vehicles to channel future research and development funding through the Technology Strategy Board is recognition and validation of the important role we are playing co-ordinating low carbon vehicle innovation in the UK, from initial strategic academic research through to industry-led research, development and demonstration.”

The aim of the *Low Carbon Vehicles: The road to market* funding competition is to strengthen UK capability by encouraging a reduction of costs in the supply base and a faster adoption of new technologies on UK roads, with a focus on pulling technology through the various stages of the innovation chain.

Consortia applying for this funding will need to demonstrate that their project has the potential to build on the UK's existing capabilities, give the UK a global competitive advantage and bring economic benefit to the country. In particular, the consortia will need to show that their proposal:

- Accelerates the introduction of highly innovative technologies that build on the UK's capability and demonstrate a clear route to a viable market;
- Shows technologies that support the delivery of current legislative and international emission targets;
- Quantifies the scale of the expected CO<sub>2</sub> savings relative to the technology target mass market application;
- Provides evidence that the performance, durability, integrity and safety of any technology proposed will be in line with industry expectations.

Grants for each project are likely to range from £500,000 up to in excess of £5 million. A networking event is planned for 10 January 2012, to present the scope of the funding competition and facilitate consortia-building. The competition opens on 20 February 2012 and expressions of interest must be submitted by 28 March 2012.

**Ends**

**Notes to Editors:**

1. The **Technology Strategy Board** is a business-led government body which works to create economic growth by ensuring that the UK is a global leader in innovation. Sponsored by the Department for Business,

LCVIDP7/launch/NS/Nov11/AB

Innovation and Skills (BIS), the Technology Strategy Board brings together business, research and the public sector, supporting and accelerating the development of innovative products and services to meet market needs, tackle major societal challenges and help build the future economy. For more information please visit: [Technology Strategy Board website](#).

2. The Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) is a cross-Whitehall team that has been established to manage this programme of measures. Comprising people and funding from the Departments for Transport; Business, Innovation and Skills; and Energy and Climate Change; OLEV is responsible for taking forward a national policy on this shared agenda.
3. The vision of the Technology Strategy Board is for the UK to be a global leader in innovation and a magnet for innovative businesses, where technology is applied rapidly, effectively and sustainably to create wealth and enhance quality of life. Our approach to accelerating the pace of innovation in the UK is captured in our strategy document, *Concept to Commercialisation*, published in May 2011. This builds on our first strategy, developed in 2008, and sets out new directions, taking into account the challenges and exciting opportunities that lie ahead. To see the new strategy please visit: [Concept to Commercialisation](#).
4. The Technology Strategy Board's [connect](#) platform provides an effective and powerful way to collaborate online, network and share knowledge with other innovators. It provides a place to work together securely and share information & knowledge. Users can utilise the online tools to work collaboratively, discuss ideas and find events. The networks offer up-to-the minute news on funding, events, articles and publications, plus information about all 15 Knowledge Transfer Networks. Through the networks, users can find potential business partners, entrepreneurs, collaborators, other innovators, researchers and academics.
5. The Government has a £30m fund to kick-start installation of recharging points in 8 areas across the country. The Plugged-In Places projects are installing infrastructure in London, Milton Keynes, North East England, the Midlands, Greater Manchester, the East of England, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
6. The Government has made provision of over £400m to promote the uptake of ultra-low carbon vehicle technologies. This includes approximately £80m supporting research and development activities; £30m for the installation of infrastructure; and, subject to review, provision of around £300m to support consumer incentives for the life of the Parliament.
7. Full details of the funding competition are available at: [LCVIDP7 competition](#)
8. The competition will be delivered by the Technology Strategy Board through the Low Carbon Vehicles Innovation Platform (LCVIP), which was established in September 2007 to promote low carbon vehicle research, design, development and demonstration in the UK. This will be the seventh competition under the LCVIP's Integrated Delivery Programme (IDP). The IDP aims to integrate the low carbon vehicle innovation chain, from the science base, through collaborative R&D to fleet-level demonstration. The programme has secured funding from the Technology Strategy Board, the Office for Low Emission Vehicles, the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, the Department for Business Innovation and Skills, regional bodies and devolved administrations. The Low Carbon Vehicles Innovation Platform has been working with key stakeholders to understand the research priorities needed to support the future developments of road vehicles to help reduce carbon emissions and therefore meet UK and EU climate change targets. For further information please visit: [LCVIP](#).

9. Media enquiries **only** should be addressed to the Technology Strategy Board's media relations consultant or manager:

Nick Sheppard

Media Relations Consultant

Mobile: 07824 599644, Email: [nick.sheppard@tsb.gov.uk](mailto:nick.sheppard@tsb.gov.uk)

Claire Cunningham

Media Relations Manager

Mobile: 07554 115745 Email: [claire.cunningham@tsb.gov.uk](mailto:claire.cunningham@tsb.gov.uk).

10. Companies and other organisations seeking information about Technology Strategy Board funding competitions should visit the Competitions page of the Technology Strategy Board website – [Competitions page](#) , email [competitions@innovateuk.org](mailto:competitions@innovateuk.org) or phone the Competitions Helpline at 0300 321 4357.
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