

Technology Strategy Board

Driving Innovation

Press Release

10th December 2009

Lord Mandelson announces £19m for innovative research and development into Ultra Low Carbon vehicles

The Business Secretary Lord Mandelson signalled a new boost today for innovative low and ultra low carbon vehicles technology, announcing a £19m competition which will support industry-led collaborative research, development and demonstration projects, with a focus on developing the UK's supply network.

The competition will be delivered by the government-backed Technology Strategy Board in partnership with the cross-governmental Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV).

Speaking today at the first meeting of the Automotive Council, Business Secretary Lord Mandelson said:

“This investment is another important step for the UK towards a low carbon economy. The Government is committed to targeting areas where there is potential to build on existing capabilities and deliver global competitive advantage and economic benefit for the UK.

“This latest competition will reinforce the Automotive Council's focus on both supply chain and technology. Both these areas will be vital if the mass production of low carbon vehicles in the UK is to become a reality.”

The competition is part of the Technology Strategy Board-led Low Carbon Vehicles Integrated Delivery Programme and will focus on strengthening UK capability and developing the UK's supply networks for components and sub-systems in key technology areas for low and ultra low carbon vehicles.

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

“This is the fourth competition run by the Technology Strategy Board under its Low Carbon Vehicles Integrated Delivery Programme, which is aimed at integrating the innovation chain from the science base, through collaborative research and development to fleet level demonstration.

The Technology Strategy Board's challenge-led innovation approach sees the societal, economic and environmental challenges of the future not as threats, but rather as opportunities for innovative solutions that enhance quality of life and increase wealth.”

The full scope of this competition will be announced by the Technology Strategy Board over the next six weeks, with an expected formal competition launch in February 2010. **Ends**

Editor's notes

1. **The Low Carbon Vehicles Innovation Platform** (launched September 2007) delivers the Government's R&D funding on low carbon vehicles. With initial funding from the Technology Strategy Board, Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) and the Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), the platform aims to promote low carbon vehicle research, design, development and demonstration in the UK. The Integrated Delivery Programme has secured over £120m of public sector funding from the Technology Strategy Board, the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV), Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Council, Advantage West Midlands, One North East and Invest Northern Ireland.
2. **The Technology Strategy Board** is a business-led executive non-departmental public body, established by the government. Its role is to promote and support research into, and development and exploitation of, technology and innovation for the benefit of UK business, in order to increase economic growth and improve the quality of life. It is sponsored by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). For more information please visit www.innovateuk.org.
3. The **Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV)** is a cross-Whitehall team comprising officials from DfT, BIS and DECC as well as industry secondees. With policy responsibility for the ultra-low carbon vehicles agenda and oversight of programmes with a combined budget of over £400m, OLEV aims to position the UK at the forefront of the development, demonstration, manufacture and use of ultra-low carbon vehicles. OLEV works with industry, cities, regions and other groups to bring the maximum environmental and economic benefit to the UK.
4. Full details about this competition are still being finalised and further information will be issued as soon as it is available. Information will be published in the competitions pages of the Technology Strategy Board website:
<http://www.innovateuk.org/deliveringinnovation/forthcomingcompetitions.ashx>

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