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## Welcome



This week SMMT hosted government for the good-news announcement that the 'Plug-in Car Grant' will go ahead. Transport secretary Philip Hammond announced that as part of government's commitment to low carbon growth, tackling climate change and developing measures to ensure the security of Britain's energy supply, it will be giving the green light to an initiative set out last year. Mr Hammond said that the government had set aside £43million for the scheme, which from January 2011 will offer £5,000 to motorists purchasing an ultra-low carbon vehicle. This is undoubtedly good news for the UK's sector, as it means Britain will be well-placed to compete at an international level in the global drive towards low carbon industry.

Also this week, SMMT announced that the average new car CO<sub>2</sub> figure has improved by 4.7% in the first half of 2010 to 145.2g/km, compared with the same period in 2009 and registrations of alternatively fuelled cars have doubled over this period. This year has been tough, but SMMT's new registration forecasts, due out next week, suggest continued positive development.

*SMMT chief executive Paul Everitt*

### Government confirms EV incentive at SMMT

Speaking at SMMT this week, the transport secretary, Philip Hammond, confirmed that the 'Plug-In Car Grant', designed to stimulate demand for low carbon vehicles, will go ahead from January 2011. Mr Hammond confirmed that from next year, motorists will be entitled to a 'Plug-In Car Grant' of up to £5,000 when buying an electric, plug-in hybrid or hydrogen fuel cell car, providing it meets safety, reliability, performance and warranty standards set by the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) in consultation with industry. SMMT's chief executive, Paul Everitt, announced government's move as "great news for industry and a significant commitment by the new government to create UK jobs in the emerging market for ultra-low carbon vehicles".

To view the video click [here](#). To read the full article click [here](#).

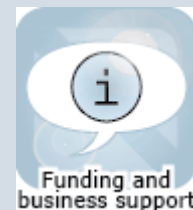
### UK manufacturers explore local sourcing opportunities

Growing demand from vehicle manufacturers to do business with UK component suppliers is set to

#### SENTA



#### Funding and support



#### Industry Forum

continue following the success of this month's first automotive component trade event, hosted by SMMT. Manufacturers specified criteria they required from prospective supply chain companies, who were then selected by SMMT using the [Automotive Supplier Finder](#) (ASF). Over 90 one-to-one meetings took place between manufacturers and suppliers at the event, held in Birmingham earlier this month. The consultations demonstrated a clear desire from global vehicle manufacturers to source more components domestically and SMMT plans to hold more similar events in the near future. To read more about the event, click [here](#).

### **DVLA introduces new vehicle registration document**

In association with DirectGov, the DVLA has introduced a new vehicle registration document, to increase consumer awareness in the fight against car fraud. As part of the ['Buyer Beware'](#) initiative, developed by DirectGov, the new document will not only counteract any existing counterfeit vehicle registration documents, but also help improve consumer confidence levels with respect to prospective buyers of second hand vehicles.

Furthermore, much to the enthusiasm of several long-campaigning key industry stakeholders, the new registration document no longer has the scrappage 'tick box', which means now that almost all vehicles must now be recycled according to the environmental standards set by the Authorised Treatment Facilities (ATF). For the full details about the new vehicle registration document, please click [here](#).

### **New car CO<sub>2</sub> figures continue to improve**

SMMT published the new car CO<sub>2</sub> figures this week, which show that the average new car CO<sub>2</sub> figure is down 4.7% in first half of 2010 to 145.2g/km, compared with the same period in 2009 and registrations of alternatively fuelled cars has doubled over this period. While some apprehension remains in light of the publication of the latest figures, there is evidence of a clear commitment to developing new low carbon technology and a commitment from manufacturers to offering ever more efficient products through the introduction of increasingly efficient engines and alternative technologies. To see the latest table of new car CO<sub>2</sub> figures, click [here](#).

### **Industry credibility at core of new relationship**

Motor industry regulatory body, Motor Codes, is to intensify its push to increase the service and repair sector's credibility as it enters a collaborative



Motor Codes



SMMT Oversight



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relationship with the Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI). Launched in 2005 by the IMI, Automotive Technician Accreditation (ATA) is the UK's first and most widely adopted voluntary scheme that proves the current competence of technicians working in the sector. Over 24,000 individuals across the sector have achieved the standard. To read the full press release, click [here](#).

Micheldever Tyre and Auto Services, the UK's largest independent distributor and fitter of tyres, has signed-up its nationwide network to the Motor Industry Code of Practice for Service and Repair. For more information about this story, click [here](#).

### **SMMT sponsors IMechE lecture**

SMMT will be sponsoring a lecture organised by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, to be presented by Dr Clive Hickman, managing director, Tata Motors European Technical Centre. The lecture will examine the challenges of delivering innovative vehicles to meet the demands of an increasingly competitive global market. The lecture will take place on 18 October. For full details of the lecture, please contact Diane Lorenzelli at IMechE tel: 020 7304 6837 email: [D\\_Lorenzelli@imeche.org](mailto:D_Lorenzelli@imeche.org).

### **Automechanika grants still available**

SMMT has one remaining exhibition space for any UK automotive company interested in exhibiting at the world's largest component and accessory show, Automechanika, which this year is taking place in Frankfurt, Germany, between 14-19 September. Once again, SMMT will be organising the official UK exhibitor group, which is sponsored by UK Trade and Investment. UK Trade and Investment TAP grants, worth £1,000, are available to qualified UK exhibitors, both members of the official group and companies exhibiting independently. In order to secure a UKTI TAP support grant of £1,000 to supplement exhibition costs, contact Pat Shaw at SMMT tel: 020 7344 9260 or e-mail [pshaw@smt.co.uk](mailto:pshaw@smt.co.uk).

### **Week in Westminster and Brussels**

In Westminster, transport secretary Philip Hammond and business minister Mark Prisk visited SMMT to confirm government funding for the Plug-In Car Grant ultra-low carbon vehicle incentive, government launched a consultation paper on encouraging an industry-led recovery by addressing issues around access to finance, and transport secretary Philip Hammond appeared before the House of Commons Transport Select Committee. Click [here](#) to read week in Westminster.

In Brussels, the European Commission published a study on programmes to promote environmental skills, the European Economic and Social Committee published a report entitled '*Toward the wider uptake of electric vehicles*', and the European Commission has called for new 'Green Car' research proposals. Click [here](#) to read week in Brussels.

## **Economic update**

Aspects of this week's releases of UK economic data for July confirmed some resilience in retail sales growth, but also the probable onset of more subdued conditions in the housing market, as demand and prices weakened. For many UK households this suggests a willingness to keep spending on many non-discretionary items and a range of household and personal items, but significant caution on their ability and willingness to commit to home-buying and on other big discretionary items like cars. To read the full economic update, click [here](#).

### **Dates for your diary**

SMMT Annual Dinner, Park Lane Hilton, London, 23 November - [annualdinner@smtt.org](mailto:annualdinner@smtt.org)  
Commercial Vehicle Show 2011, NEC Birmingham, 12-14 April 2011 - [enquiries@cvshow.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cvshow.co.uk)