

Government announces measures to support plug-in vehicle uptake

Government has announced a £37 million funding package to benefit drivers with plug-in vehicles. This funding comes from government's £400 million commitment to increase the uptake of ultra low emission vehicles, announced in 2010, and will be available until April 2015. Measures include:

- up to £13.5 million for a 75% grant for homeowners in the UK wishing to have a domestic chargepoint installed
- an £11 million fund for local authorities in England to: install on-street charging for residents who have or have ordered a plug-in vehicle but do not have off-street parking; provide up to 75% of the cost of installing rapid chargepoints in their areas around the strategic road network
- up to £9 million available to fund the installation of chargepoints at railway stations
- up to £3 million to support the installation of chargepoints on the government and wider public estate by April 2015
- a commitment to review government buying standards (mandatory for central government departments) to lower the fleet average CO₂/km of new cars and encourage the uptake of plug-in vehicles in central government.

The package also includes a previously-announced £280,000 of funding to expand the Energy Saving Trust's plugged-in fleets initiative in England to help a further 100 public and private sector fleets to understand and identify where ultra low emission vehicles could work for them. Commenting on the announcement, Transport Secretary, Patrick McLoughlin stated: 'Plug-in vehicles can help the consumer by offering a good driving experience and low running costs. They can help the environment by cutting pollution. And most importantly of all, they can help the British economy by creating skilled manufacturing jobs in a market that is bound to get bigger.'

(Source: www.gov.uk)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-measures-announced-to-support-the-uptake-of-plug-in-vehicles>.



Business Secretary launches automotive 'Proving Factory' initiative

Vince Cable MP, Secretary of State for Business Innovation and Skills, has launched an advanced manufacturing initiative for the automotive sector, 'The Proving Factory'. This is a collaborative project involving major companies and groups in the UK motor industry and aims to industrialise and validate new technologies and supply them to vehicle manufacturers. The project will result in component manufacturing at Tata Steel's site in Rotherham and an assembly facility in the West Midlands, managed by Productiv. The project received funding and strategic support from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Automotive Council, with £12.8 million in grant and loan funding from government through the Advanced Manufacturing Supply Chain Initiative (AMSCI), which has been matched with £9.1 million of private funding. It is estimated that The Proving Factory will create over 250 direct new jobs in assisted areas and around 1,000 more in the manufacturing and engineering supply chain. Launching the project Secretary of State, Vince Cable said, "Supply chains are the lifeblood of industry and vital in our drive for renewed economic growth, which is why government has committed to supporting their development as part of our Industrial Strategy. The Proving Factory is a clear demonstration of how AMSCI is bringing government and businesses together to overcome barriers in

efficiency and expansion, while creating a wealth of valuable new jobs in the increasingly competitive global marketplace.” (Source: www.gov.uk)
<http://www.smmmt.co.uk/2013/02/vince-cable-launches-22-million-automotive-%e2%80%99proving-factory%e2%80%99-initiative/>



UK car manufacturing rises 1.2% in January

Figures published by SMMT show that UK car manufacturing rose 1.2% in January to 129,049 units, with strong domestic demand seeing the output of cars built for the UK market rise 26.1%. The commercial vehicle and engine sectors fared less well in January however, down 20.5% and 5.1% respectively. (Source: SMMT)

<http://www.smmmt.co.uk/2013/02/steady-start-for-car-manufacturing-as-industry-gears-up-for-strong-year/>

EEF launches ‘Tech for Growth’ report

EEF, the manufacturers’ organisation, has launched a report entitled ‘Tech for Growth: Delivering green growth through technology’, calling on government to give British manufacturer’s clarity and predictability needed to invest in the low carbon economy. The report looks at how government can realise the potential of key manufacturing sectors and, unlock investments in breakthrough technologies that will generate a step change in their carbon emissions. Key recommendations from the report include:

- Complementing the 2013 decarbonisation target with a goal to match the OECD average for government expenditure on energy and environment R&D over this period and make progress in each Spending Review.
- Outlining the portfolio of low carbon technologies on which the UK’s innovation effort will be focused by summer 2013 and ensure intervention is

additional, focuses on cost reduction and market failures.

- Developing the Low Carbon Funding Navigator which brings together private and public funding opportunities in low carbon energy projects to include R&D funding opportunities available to manufacturers
- Undertaking a review of Enhanced Capital Allowances to ensure they are targeting low carbon technology investment
- Ensuring the Green Investment Bank (GIB) becomes a one stop shop for all sources of low carbon project finance and that its fund managers allocate money to projects that otherwise wouldn’t go through. Mandating the Growth Implementation Committee to monitor the progress of the GIB in providing finance for investment in low carbon technologies
- Government setting out its future procurement needs to create a clear market demand, in order to stimulate low carbon technology innovation, help unlock investment and reduce technological development risk.
- Setting out a policy roadmap by 2015 for how sectors such as steel, glass, and cement which have unique issues in decarbonising will be helped to cut emissions.

Week ahead

Commons Chamber

Thursday 28 February
9:30am Transport questions

Commons Committees

Monday 25 February
Transport Committee (4:05pm, Thatcher room)
The work of VOSA

House of Lords

No relevant activity