

New Car CO₂ Report launched

SMMT has published the 2012 New Car CO₂ Report. The Report, which is based on 2011 figures, was launched at a breakfast event held at SMMT, with speakers including Dan Milmo, Industrial Editor at The Guardian, Doug Parr, Chief Scientist, Greenpeace UK, and Richard Bruce, Director of Government's Office for Low Emission Vehicles. The Report highlights the progress that the automotive industry made in 2011 despite challenging business conditions and weakened consumer confidence. Key figures in the Report include: average new car CO₂ emissions in 2011 fell to a new low of 138.1g/km; the average new car emitted 23.7% less than a new car in 2000 and 18.4% less than the average car in use in the UK; emissions have fallen across all segments, fuel types and sales types, indicating the introduction of lower CO₂ emitting technologies across the board. The Report is timely, following the Budget, as government reviews vehicle excise duty (VED) and as the European Commission reviews the 2020 targets for new car and van CO₂. Despite significant progress, these targets are very challenging as the gains from technological developments become increasingly difficult. Commenting on the Report, SMMT, Chief Executive, Paul Everitt stated: "Industry can be proud of the progress it has made in reducing CO₂ emissions and improving fuel efficiency, 23% since 2000. The UK motor industry recognises its responsibilities and the industrial opportunities from the transition to ultra-low carbon vehicles. Future environmental and economic success will be determined by sustained investment in new technology, R&D, infrastructure and consumer incentives". (Source: SMMT)

<http://www.smmt.co.uk/co2report#>

SMMT respond to Transport Committee low carbon vehicles inquiry

SMMT has submitted written evidence to the Transport Select Committee's inquiry on low carbon vehicles. In the response, SMMT highlighted the

importance of low carbon vehicles to the economy, including the potential for increased investment in the UK. SMMT emphasised the need for a long-term and consistent policy across government to increase uptake and maximise investment. Infrastructure was highlighted as a key area of focus, where government should ensure it renews efforts on coordinating national recharging infrastructure. Important for industry is support for R&D, where government has implemented welcome measures, but could do more to make the UK more internationally competitive. (Source: SMMT)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/transport-committee/news/low-carbon-cars/>



UK car manufacturing posts strong first quarter

Figures published by SMMT show that car manufacturing rose 0.3% in March 2012 to 135,456 units, and was up 12.3% over the first quarter to 401,134 units. Output for commercial vehicles fell 21.3% to 9,648 units in March 2012, and was down 9.6% over the first quarter to 29,086. UK engine production fell by 8.7% in March 2012, to 227,957 units, and by 0.5% to 681,966 units over the year-to-date. Commenting on the figures, Paul Everitt, SMMT Chief Executive, stated: "Challenging economic conditions in mainland Europe are a concern, but the sector continues to win business in important and faster growing export markets". (Source: SMMT)

<http://www.smmt.co.uk/2012/04/smmt-uk-automotive-manufacturing-march-2012/>

UK automotive prominent at Make it in Great Britain exhibition

Leading automotive companies including Axon Automotive, GKN, Jaguar Land Rover and McLaren have been among those selected to take part in the Make it in Great Britain exhibition. British electric vehicle charging company, POD Point and low carbon power technology company, Intelligent Energy are also among the businesses selected to participate in the exhibition. They will join around 40 other businesses at the Make it in Great Britain exhibition, which will take place at the Science Museum during the Olympic and Paralympic Games this summer. The exhibition aims to raise awareness of the dynamic, advanced and innovative industry that exists in the UK today, and dispel beliefs that Britain 'does not make anything anymore'. Commenting on the announcement, Business Minister Mark Prisk, stated: "Manufacturing accounts for 8% of total UK employment and well over half of export goods, yet current perceptions of the industry are out of date and do not reflect that reality. We have selected a really exciting mix of exhibits, from the manufacture of MRI magnets by Siemens, to the secrets behind McLaren's winning team. I hope that as many people as possible visit the exhibition and see all of the great examples of British design and manufacturing – it will be spectacular". (Source: BIS)

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/news/topstories/2012/Apr/stars-of-make-it-in-great-britain-exhibition-unveiled>



Week ahead

Commons Chamber

Wednesday 25 April

Transport questions – 10:30am

Commons Committees

Tuesday 24 April

Transport Committee (10:00am Thatcher room)

Road safety

BIS Committee (10:30am, room 6)

Trade & Investment: Brazil

Wednesday 25 April

Science & Technology Committee (9:15am, Thatcher room) – Bridging the valley of death

Environmental Audit Committee (2:15pm, Thatcher room) – Budget 2012

Thursday 26 April

Political & Constitutional Reform Committee (10:00am, Wilson room) – Introducing a statutory register of lobbyists

Westminster Hall

No relevant activity

Lords Chamber

No relevant activity