

MPs visit 2012 CV Show in Birmingham

The 2012 CV Show has been held at the NEC in Birmingham from 24-26 April. Transport Minister, Mike Penning MP, Shadow Transport Minister, John Woodcock MP, Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Freight Transport, Rob Ffello MP and Member of the European Parliament's Transport Committee, Philip Bradbourn MEP, all attended the show over the 3 day period. The guests spoke with companies representing all aspects of the commercial vehicle market, from large truck and component manufacturers, to smaller organisations focusing on telematics and driver behaviour. (Source: SMMT) <http://www.smmt.co.uk/2012/04/smmt-to-boost-image-and-profile-of-uk-cv-industry/>



Mike Penning MP launches Low carbon truck demonstration trial

Transport Minister, Mike Penning MP, has announced that government will support trials of carbon-cutting trucks, through a £9.5 million investment by the Department for Transport and the Technology Strategy Board. The 'Low carbon truck demonstration trial' aims to deliver fleets of low-emission heavy goods vehicles as well as supporting infrastructure such as fuelling stations and electric recharging hubs. Companies wishing to take advantage of the funding have until June 20 to bid for up to £750,000 each.

Trials will run for two years and data collected over this period will be used to inform government policy on low-carbon road freight. To qualify for the competition, vehicles must deliver carbon savings of at least 15% compared with the equivalent conventional vehicle. A variety of technologies are eligible for funding under the rules of the competition including gas-powered, dual fuel or hybrid trucks of over 7.5 tonnes and electric vehicles over 3.5 tonnes. Announcing the competition, Mr. Penning stated: "These trials will show us how low-carbon technologies perform day-to-day in the real world, providing vital data to build operator confidence in these green trucks and allowing us to make policy choices based on hard evidence". (Source: DfT)

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/news/press-releases/dft-press-20120424a>

'Intelligent Mobility' summit discusses congestion solutions

The Automotive Council has held a summit on 'Intelligent Mobility' to discuss how 'congestion-busting' solutions developed in the UK could help attract foreign investment as well as boost the UK economy. Automotive manufacturers, fleet operators, IT and communications specialists and infrastructure providers discussed congestion solutions, in the wake of government figures that show by 2030 road use will have grown by 25-30%. Business Secretary and Co-Chair of the Automotive Council Vince Cable stated: "Increasing road capacity while tackling congestion means we will need to be more intelligent in managing the road network and the vehicles that use it. Intelligent mobility could also benefit the economy allowing businesses to be more competitive, reducing logistics costs, giving more predictable journey times and reducing CO2 emissions. Achieving an intelligent mobility solution will need different sectors and disciplines working together. Today's summit has started that debate". (Source: BIS)

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/content/Detail.aspx?ReleaseID=424180&NewsAreaID=2>

Talent is key to future of manufacturing industry, states World Economic Forum

The World Economic Forum has launched a report entitled 'The Future of Manufacturing: Opportunities to drive economic growth', that states that talent, innovation and strategic use of public policy will be key factors on defining manufacturing sector competitiveness in the future. Written in collaboration with Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited, the study finds that the global manufacturing ecosystem is undergoing a dramatic transformation, with many emerging economies developing significant manufacturing and innovation capabilities, enabling them to produce increasingly complex products and leading to the globalisation of manufacturing supply chains. The report highlights key trends that will define manufacturing competition over the next 20 years and which will require the attention and collaboration of policy-makers, civil society and business leaders. With an estimated 10 million manufacturing jobs worldwide that cannot be filled today due to a growing skills gap, the report identifies talent as one of the key differentiators that will define the future of the sector. The other top differentiators identified in the report include the strategic use of public policy and the ability to innovate. The report also shows that the strategic use of public policy as an enabler of economic development will intensify, resulting in a competition between nations for policy effectiveness and placing a premium on collaboration between policy-makers and business leaders to create win-win outcomes. Craig Giffi, Vice-Chairman and Consumer & Industrial Products Industry Leader at Deloitte LLP, USA, stated: "Today, and for the foreseeable future, the manufacturing game is going to look like a global talent competition - one in which countries and companies contend to find and develop highly skilled workers who can handle the advanced manufacturing processes needed to make innovative, high-value products". (Source: World Economic Forum) http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_MOB_FutureManufacturing_Report_2012.pdf

Government support for business access to alternative finance outlined

Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg, has highlighted government action to help businesses across Britain make greater use of non-bank finance, in a speech to

the Institute of Directors. The Deputy Prime Minister outlined plans for the £1.2 billion Business Finance Partnership (BFP) part of government's package of credit easing that also includes £20 billion through the National Loan Guarantee Scheme. Government is currently considering proposals for the BFP, including allocating finance to senior loan funds. £100 million has already been earmarked to support non-bank lending channels such as peer-to-peer lending and mezzanine finance. BIS will distribute this £100 million portion of the BFP. It aims to increase the supply of capital through non-bank lending channels, and stimulate the development of a more diversified non-bank lending market for those businesses in the UK with a turnover of less than £500m. A request for proposals will be issued at the end of May to invite finance providers to bid for the £100 million. Mr. Clegg stated: "We need to break open the market here in the UK, with more competition within the sector as well as more alternative sources of finance, outside of it". (Source: BIS)

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/news/topstories/2012/Apr/government-support-business-access-to-alternative-finance>



Week ahead

House of Commons

Parliament is expected to be prorogued on Wednesday 2 May.

House of Lords

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