

WEEK IN WESTMINSTER

Week ending Friday 27 July

UK automotive attracts £56m funding to drive low carbon R&D

UK vehicle manufacturers, and firms across the automotive supply chain, have secured £56 million to fund the development of low and ultra-low carbon technologies. More than £27 million of public funding from the Office for Low Emission Vehicles and the Technology Strategy Board, together with £29 million of private sector funding, will be invested in 17 major R&D projects. These will be led by major vehicle manufacturers including Ford, Jaguar, Land Rover and Nissan, however, a large number of small and medium-sized companies, including suppliers, will be closely involved in the development work. The projects aim to boost UK capability by encouraging a reduction of costs in the supply base and a faster adoption of new technologies on UK roads, with a focus on pulling technology through the various stages of the innovation chain. Commenting on the news, Business Minister, Mark Prisk stated: "By working with industry to invest in innovative research and development we are putting the UK at the cutting edge of low carbon vehicle technology - delivering long term benefits for the economy and the environment". (Source: TSB)

<http://www.innovateuk.org/content/press-release/56-million-investment-will-drive-introduction-of-l.ashx>

TfL publish draft Road Safety Action Plan

The Mayor and Transport for London have released a draft road safety action plan for the capital that will cover the next eight years. The Plan sets a target of a 40% reduction in the number of people killed or seriously injured on London's roads by 2020. During 2011, the total number of people killed and seriously injured in London was the lowest since records began in the eighties. However road safety continues to be a key priority for the Mayor and TfL, both to continue overall trends and to tackle ongoing specific areas where further action is needed including for example cycling, pedestrian casualties, and slight casualties. A

consultation on the new draft Road Safety Action Plan has now opened. The draft plan includes 70 actions for TfL and its partners to help reduce the number of casualties across London. TfL has already begun to implement a number of these actions, including a review of around 500 junctions across London, working to extend its Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme to increase freight operators' awareness of road safety issues, and campaigning at a government and European level for safety features to be installed on freight vehicles. Other actions set out in the Plan include increasing investment in the road network, including through the delivery of the cycling junction review, to deliver safety improvements, and lobbying the UK and European Commission for all new tippers and skip lorries to be fitted with side guards and audible devices and amend EC directives to ensure that it includes retrofitting of Class VI front mirrors on vehicles over 7.5 tonnes.

<http://www.tfl.gov.uk/corporate/media/newscentre/25060.aspx>



Jaguar Land Rover announces 1,100 new jobs in the UK

More than 1,100 new jobs are being created by Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) at its Castle Bromwich facility to support the launch of new Jaguar models. JLR's plans to deliver 40 significant product actions over the next five years, with its advanced manufacturing facility at Castle Bromwich manufacturing the Jaguar XF, XK and XJ models, and exporting nearly 80% of its production to 101 markets

worldwide. Commenting on the news, Business Secretary, Vince Cable, stated: "This expansion is a clear demonstration of Jaguar Land Rover's continuing commitment and investment in the UK". (Source: SMMT)

<http://www.smmt.co.uk/2012/07/jaguar-land-rover-announces-1100-new-jobs-in-the-uk/>

Ford backs new High Speed Sustainable Manufacturing Institute

Ford has announced it will back a High Speed Sustainable Manufacturing Institute (HSSMI) being launched by government at the Centre for Engineering and Manufacturing Excellence (CEME) in East London. Ford is to invest £1.44 million of high-tech engineering and manufacturing expertise in the HSSMI, in partnership with CEME, Loughborough University and supported by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). The set up and launch of the Institute is funded by a £3.5 million grant from the DCLG. This independent Institute will conduct industrial research which aims to improve the efficiency of UK manufacturers and suppliers by integrating state-of-the-art technologies from top academic organisations into volume manufacturing processes. This aims to increase productivity, raise the profile of manufacturing in the UK and support the development of key skills needed to make industry more attractive to businesses. Commenting on the announcement, Joe Greenwell, Ford of Britain Chairman stated, "The Institute will accelerate research and development in innovative manufacturing systems that will help underpin the future of the UK's high value manufacturing sector. This complements the work that Ford is already doing in this area and also provides significant opportunities for supply chain partners". (Source: SMMT)

<http://www.smmt.co.uk/2012/07/ford-backs-new-high-speed-sustainable-manufacturing-institute/>

Make it in Great Britain Exhibition opens

Business Secretary, Vince Cable, has officially opened the Make it in Great Britain exhibition at the Science Museum, celebrating the success of British manufacturing. The exhibition is the culmination of government's Make it in Great Britain campaign and features a mix of displays from 39 businesses of all sizes including automotive companies such as McLaren, Jaguar Land Rover, Axon, Johnson

Matthey, and Pod Point. Commenting on the exhibition, Vince Cable stated: "Generating £137bn each year and employing 2.5 million people, manufacturing is a vital part of the UK's economy. Perceptions of the industry are outdated and need to change if we are going to attract the talent needed to support manufacturing in the long term. Both Government and industry have a role to play, which is why we launched the Make it in Great Britain campaign and are hosting this exhibition". (Source: BIS)

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



Week ahead

House of Commons

The House of Commons is in recess until Monday 3 September

House of Lords

The House of Lords is in recess until Friday 1 September