



NEWS RELEASE

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Consortium aims to demonstrate benefits of new supercharger technology

Ricardo, Lontra and Ford Motor Company have been awarded grant funding by the UK Technology Strategy Board to demonstrate Lontra's Blade Supercharger™. The team will integrate the unique technology with a downsized engine to create a Ford vehicle demonstrator

The Blade Supercharger™ is a novel variable flow compressor with the ability to meet the boosting requirements of heavily downsized engines. The grant support provided by the Technology Strategy Board will enable the development of the supercharger for Ford's engine package, and the integration of the boosted engine into a vehicle demonstrator. Lontra and Ricardo engineers will work together to implement the project.

Commenting on the announcement of the details of this project, Jason King, chief engineer in the Ricardo Gasoline Engines Product Group, said: "The Blade Supercharger™ shows significant potential in delivering efficiency whilst maintaining driveability. Ricardo welcomes the opportunity to bring its long experience of automotive innovation to the project."

Simon Hombersley, Business Development Director, Lontra: "Boosting of automotive engines is one of Lontra's initial three applications for our unique energy efficient technology. We're very enthusiastic to work with such experienced partners in the automotive sector, and look forward to demonstrating the technology publicly next year."

The Technology Strategy Board promotes UK innovation, and the grant is part of its fast track funding stream, which has a streamlined application process for projects of 12 months or less. The team anticipate a vehicle demonstrator completed in 2010.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

Ricardo plc: With technical centres and offices in the UK, USA, Germany, the Czech Republic, France, Italy, Russia, China, Japan, India and Korea, Ricardo is a leading independent technology provider and strategic consultant to the world's transportation sector and clean energy industries. The company's engineering expertise ranges from vehicle systems integration, controls, electronics and software development, to the latest driveline and transmission systems and gasoline, diesel, hybrid and fuel cell powertrain technologies, as well as wind energy and tidal power systems. Ricardo is committed to excellence and industry leadership in people, technology and knowledge; approximately 70 percent of its employees are highly qualified multi-disciplined professional engineers and technicians. A public company, Ricardo plc posted sales of £178.8 million in financial year 2009 and is a constituent of the FTSE techMark 100 index – a group of innovative technology companies listed on the London Stock Exchange. For more information, visit www.ricardo.com.

Lontra: Lontra is a CleanTech development company, which works with engineering partners to develop and commercialise innovative compressor, blower, expander, supercharger and engine technologies. The Blade Supercharger™ has unique benefits in boosting downsized automotive engines, and is one of three initial focus markets for Lontra. The company has also started development of the Blade Compressor™ for waste water treatment, and for industrial air. The Carbon Trust has recognised the technology's carbon saving potential and has provided grant and other support. For more information visit www.lontra.co.uk.

Ford Motor Company, a global automotive industry leader based in Dearborn, Mich., manufactures or distributes automobiles across six continents. With about 198,000 employees and about 90 plants worldwide, the company's automotive brands include Ford, Lincoln, Mercury and, until its sale, Volvo. The company provides financial services through Ford Motor Credit Company. For more information regarding Ford's products, please visit www.ford.com.

Ford of Europe is responsible for producing, selling and servicing Ford brand vehicles in 51 individual markets and employs approximately 66,000 employees. Also in 2009, Ford was Europe's No.2 best-selling vehicle brand. In addition to Ford Motor Credit Company, Ford of Europe operations include Ford Customer Service Division and 22 manufacturing facilities, including joint ventures. The first Ford cars were shipped to Europe in 1903 - the same year Ford Motor Company was founded. European production started in 1911.

The Technology Strategy Board is a business-led executive non-departmental public body, established by the UK government. Its role is to promote and support research into, and development and exploitation of, technology and innovation for the benefit of UK business, in order to increase economic growth and improve the quality of life. It is sponsored by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. For further information visit www.innovateuk.org.

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