

SMMT NEWS RELEASE

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Industry and Parliament push forward discussions on delivering low carbon technologies

The automotive industry and Parliamentarians convened today in Westminster to debate the development and production of low carbon technologies, their role in driving innovation and growth and the work being carried out by the automotive industry to support UK government's ambition to become a market leader in the low carbon economy.

The All-Party Parliamentary Motor Group (APMG), of which the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) is joint secretariat, comprises members from both Houses of Parliament and today will debate the Automotive Council's technology roadmap and the role of the UK in developing ultra-low carbon vehicles with industry representatives.

"Both the previous and current governments have highlighted the importance of continuing the momentum in low carbon technology and developing ground-breaking solutions that provide increasingly fuel efficient vehicles," said the Chairman of APMG, Richard Burden MP. "The Automotive Council and its work programme signal that there are real opportunities for the UK motor industry if there is sustained investment in R&D, skills and capital equipment. Delivering the industry's technology roadmap will make the UK an attractive location for the global automotive industry."

Professor Neville Jackson, Chief Technology and Innovation Officer at Ricardo, Chairman of LowCVP and a member of the Automotive Council's Technology Group, was invited to speak to APMG and share some of the work being carried out at Ricardo's UK-based technical centres.

"We see new innovation and technology as critical components in driving forward the low carbon agenda in the UK. By delivering high quality engineering solutions, highly fuel-efficient technologies and class-leading product innovation, we can position the UK as a more compelling investment proposition for automotive R&D versus other countries."

APMG was re-formed following the May 2010 General Election and is open to members from both Houses of Parliament. It provides a forum to discuss general motoring issues and those relating to the industries of automotive engineering and motorsport. The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT), the RAC Foundation and the Motorsport Industry Association are the joint-secretariat of the group.

Notes:

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) is one of the largest and most influential trade associations in the UK. It supports the interests of the UK automotive industry at home and abroad, promoting a united position to government, stakeholders and the media.

The automotive industry is a vital part of the UK economy with £40 billion turnover and £8.5 billion value added. With over 700,000 jobs dependent on the industry, it accounts for 9% of total UK exports and invests £1 billion each year in R&D. In the last ten years, huge strides have been made to reduce the environmental impact of its products throughout the life cycle. Improvements in production processes mean energy used to produce vehicles is down 28%, water use is down 34% and 73% less waste enters landfill sites. Average new car tailpipe CO₂ emissions have also been slashed and are down 17% compared to 2000 levels. For more details, see SMMT's 11th Annual Sustainability Report or Motor Industry Facts at www.smmt.co.uk/publications.

Note to broadcasters: SMMT has its own ISDN studio

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