

Technology Strategy Board

Driving Innovation

Press Release

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Current strengths of UK automotive industry revealed in groundbreaking report

New data has been published that demonstrates the current capability of the UK automotive industry. The Government, business and academia now have access to information that enables them to see an accurate snapshot of the state of the industry, including its ability to meet existing carbon reduction targets in road transport through the development of Low Carbon Vehicle Technologies.

The new report, commissioned by the Government-backed Technology Strategy Board at the request of the New Automotive Innovation and Growth Team (NAIGT), has revealed for the first time the areas of the automotive industry where the UK thrives, and where capability could be developed. Published today and conducted by Ricardo UK, the study looks in detail at each technology area within the auto industry, measuring the UK's capability

Designed to be used as a basis by which business can make future decisions about the development of the auto industry, it is envisaged that the report will help the UK to take advantage of the market opportunities that the development of low carbon vehicles brings.

The auto industry has welcomed the report as an important step towards a co-ordinated and concerted effort to kick-start a Low Carbon Vehicles market in the UK. Paul Everitt, Chief Executive of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) said:

"This report demonstrates that the UK motor industry is well set to exploit the transition to ultra low carbon vehicles. It has the skills, capabilities and technological strengths that are required for success. Industry is committed to low carbon technology, investing heavily in research and development, product testing and world-class production facilities."

Iain Gray, Chief Executive of the Technology Strategy Board said:

"This is a brilliant guide for the auto industry, putting them in a position where they can see where the opportunities and challenges lie. It enables anyone who wants to look, to examine the current capability in the UK and maybe even recognise opportunities to help strengthen areas that show room for improvement."

"It doesn't draw conclusions about the direction that we should take or set out a strategy but is a rich resource of information, showing what the auto industry in the UK is good at and where we are best placed to grow. It's going to help inform decisions about the direction that business takes and where future investment should lie, including those made by the Technology Strategy Board in conjunction with partners about the future direction of our Low Carbon Vehicles Innovation Platform." **Ends**

Editor's notes

1. The research published today is part of wider strategic planning work being undertaken to produce an automotive technology strategy for the UK. It builds on the New Automotive Innovation and Growth Team's (NAIGT) May 2009 report, which included an [industry-consensus high level Technology Roadmap](#) for low carbon vehicles and fuels and recommendations on how to exploit opportunities to promote the UK as a strong candidate to develop these and other technologies. Future technologies required by the industry to deliver the roadmap to the envisaged timescales were also developed in the form of a [Research Development Roadmap](#). This work is now being taken forward by the joint industry/government Automotive Council established in December 2009. The report published today will also be an important reference source for the work in this area being undertaken by the Government's Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV).
2. Today's study represents a first step towards gaining an understanding of current UK strength in each of the key technology areas in the UK automotive sector. It analyses work being done in industry and academia and identifies the level of UK capability in those areas that are important for delivering the Technology Roadmap. It also identifies our likely long-term capabilities - under an assumed scenario where current levels of R&D investment are at least maintained. It is based on inputs from NAIGT members and UK stakeholders, and seeks to broaden consensus, identify specific areas of UK capability and opportunity, and develop a structured evidence base. The research that was undertaken for the report included an in-depth industry consultation to establish the wider technology capability in the UK.

Please click here to see a summary of the

report: www.innovateuk.org/assets/pdf/Automotive%20Technologies%20-%20The%20UKs%20Current%20Capabilities%20-%20Summary.pdf

Please click here to see the full report: www.innovateuk.org/assets/pdf/Automotive%20Technologies%20-%20The%20UKs%20Current%20Capabilities.pdf

3. The Technology Strategy Board is a business-led executive non-departmental public body, established by the 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 & Skills (BIS). For more information please visit www.innovateuk.org.
4. The **Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV)** is a cross-Whitehall team comprising officials from DfT, BIS and DECC as well as industry secondees. With policy responsibility for the ultra-low carbon vehicles agenda and oversight of programmes with a combined budget of over £400m, OLEV aims to position the UK at the forefront of the development, demonstration, manufacture and use of ultra-low carbon vehicles. OLEV works with industry, cities, regions and other groups to bring the maximum environmental and economic benefit to the UK. <http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/sustainable/olev/>
5. **Ricardo plc:** 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.

6. **The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT)** exists to support and promote the interests of the UK automotive industry at home and abroad. Working closely with member companies, SMMT acts as the voice of the motor industry, promoting its position to government, stakeholders and the media. www.smmt.co.uk
7. **The Automotive Council** was established in 2009 to provide an advisory and consultative forum for government and the automotive industry in the UK, to ensure a sustained high level conversation with the industry, and to put in place a long-term strategic framework for its development. Led by Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and Richard Parry Jones, the Council sets out to promote the UK as a base for the development of low carbon vehicle technologies, strengthen the UK supply chain and to make the UK a compelling investment proposition for the global automotive industry.
8. **The Low Carbon Vehicles Innovation Platform** (launched September 2007) delivers the Government's R&D funding on low carbon vehicles. With initial funding from the Technology Strategy Board, Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) and the Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), the platform aims to promote low carbon vehicle research, design, development and demonstration in the UK. The Integrated Delivery Programme has secured over £120m of public sector funding from the Technology Strategy Board, the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV), the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (BIS) Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Council, Advantage West Midlands, One North East and Invest Northern Ireland.
9. For general enquiries about this programme or the work of the Technology Strategy Board please ring 01793 442700. For information on competitions for funding please call 01355 272155. More information is at www.innovateuk.org

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