

# Technology Strategy Board

Driving Innovation

**Press release**

**21 August 2012**

## **Government-backed trials will showcase low carbon commercial vehicles**

A £23 million demonstration programme that aims to encourage road haulage operators in the UK to buy and use low carbon commercial vehicles is set to receive over £11 million in support from the Government.

Tesco, the John Lewis Partnership, Robert Wiseman Dairies and the BOC Group are amongst the thirteen companies leading trials in the programme, which will be managed by the Technology Strategy Board ([www.innovateuk.org](http://www.innovateuk.org)) in partnership with the Department for Transport ([www.dft.gov.uk](http://www.dft.gov.uk)) and the Office for Low Emission Vehicles.

Freight Minister Mike Penning said

“There has been a great response to this competition from industry and the successful projects bring together a range of partners including fleet operators, vehicle convertors, gas hub providers and universities.

“These trials will reduce CO2 emissions from freight and provide important information from a range of real-life situations that will increase industry confidence in low carbon trucks in the long term.

“For example, operators often cite lack of gas refuelling infrastructure as a barrier to the take up of alternatives to diesel. These trials include £2.4 million funding for publicly accessible gas stations which will encourage investment in low carbon trucks, and other vehicles, delivering long term benefits for the environment and reduced costs for operators.”

The Government funding will help operators establish and run fleets of alternative & dual-fuel heavy-goods vehicles by meeting part of the difference in capital cost between traditional vehicles and their low carbon equivalents. Over 300 low-carbon commercial vehicles will be involved in the demonstration programme.

The funding will also help meet the cost of the refuelling points for use by the trial fleets, including the provision of 11 new public access refuelling stations around the country, which will be available for use by other operators.

LCTDemo/results/NS/aug12/AB

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

“This trial will enable commercial vehicle operators to showcase alternative-fuel commercial vehicles. It will help to accelerate a wider understanding and acceptance of low carbon vehicle technologies, while enabling the development of alternative fuel infrastructures.”

The thirteen demonstrator trials will be led by: Ascott Transport Ltd (Derbyshire), Brit European Transport Ltd (Crewe), CNG Services Ltd (Solihull; 2 trials), G-Volution Ltd (Newport, Gwent), Howard Tenens Associates Ltd (Gloucestershire & Wiltshire), J.B. Wheaton and Sons Ltd (Somerset), John Lewis Partnership plc (London), T Baden Hardstaff Ltd (Nottingham), Robert Wiseman Dairies (Glasgow), Tesco plc (Northants), The BOC Group (Guildford) and United Biscuits UK Ltd (Leicestershire).

The demonstrator trials include:

- The John Lewis Partnership working with partners to demonstrate a 70% reduction in carbon emissions in a wide range of articulated vehicles. This will be achieved by combining recent research into truck aerodynamics with technology that substitutes the majority of the diesel used with bio-methane, and many other interventions.
- A project led by G-Volution that will trial ten 44 tonne dual-fuel commercial HGVs using their patented dual fuel technology ‘Optimiser’ and biomethane. The articulated trucks, converted to dual-fuel, will be trialled alongside diesel equivalents, providing direct comparison data for different operating environments.
- United Biscuits collaborative project, which proposes to exploit the value in used cooking oil by creating a renewable fuel solution for use in 44 tonne articulated vehicles in a way that is innovative and provides greater greenhouse gas savings than other liquid fuel.
- J.B. Wheaton and Sons Ltd will trial, with other fleet operators, the use of 28 vehicles that will be fuelled from compressed natural gas or liquid natural gas blended with renewable biomethane to run dual fuel gas converted trucks. The project will also provide seven fixed refuelling stations & five mobile stations, which can be shared with other fleet operators.
- Robert Wiseman Diaries, collaborating with Chive Fuels, Cenex and MIRA, will trial the use of 40 new warranted dual fuel 40 tonne articulated trucks substituting diesel with natural gas from two upgraded public access liquefied natural gas stations, one in the West Midlands and one in Scotland.

The demonstration trial fleets will be run for two years, during which time usage data will be gathered and analysed by the Department for Transport.

**Ends**

## Notes to Editors

1. The **Technology Strategy Board** is the UK's innovation agency. Its goal is to accelerate economic growth by stimulating and supporting business-led innovation. Sponsored by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), the Technology Strategy Board brings together business, research and the public sector, supporting and accelerating the development of innovative products and services to meet market needs, tackle major societal challenges and help build the future economy. For more information please visit [www.innovateuk.org](http://www.innovateuk.org).
2. The **Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV)** is a cross-Whitehall team that has been established to manage a programme of measures designed to promote uptake of the next-generation of ultra-low emission vehicle technologies. Comprising people and funding from the Departments for Transport; Business, Innovation and Skills; and Energy and Climate Change; OLEV is responsible for taking forward a national policy on this shared agenda.
3. The vision of the Technology Strategy Board is for the UK to be a global leader in innovation and a magnet for innovative businesses, where technology is applied rapidly, effectively and sustainably to create wealth and enhance quality of life. Our approach to accelerating the pace of innovation in the UK is captured in our strategy document, *Concept to Commercialisation*, published in May 2011. This builds on our first strategy, developed in 2008, and sets out new directions, taking into account the challenges and exciting opportunities that lie ahead. To see the new strategy please visit: [Concept to Commercialisation](#).
4. The Technology Strategy Board's connect platform provides an effective and powerful way to collaborate online, network and share knowledge with other innovators. It provides a place to work together securely and share information & knowledge. Users can utilise the online tools to work collaboratively, discuss ideas and find events. The networks offer up-to-the minute news on funding, events, articles and publications, plus information about all 15 Knowledge Transfer Networks. Through the networks, users can find potential business partners, entrepreneurs, collaborators, other innovators, researchers and academics. The connect group for the Low Carbon Truck Demonstration Trial can be found at: <https://connect.innovateuk.org/web/low-carbon-truck-demonstrator-trial>
5. The offers of funding are conditional and remain subject to the successful completion of Technology Strategy Board compliance and financial review processes.
6. For further information about the *Low Carbon Truck Demonstration Trial* competition for demonstrate funding please visit: [LCTDT competition](#).
7. Media enquiries **only** should be addressed to the Technology Strategy Board's media relations team:  
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8. Companies and other organisations seeking information about Technology Strategy Board funding competitions should visit the Competitions page of the Technology Strategy Board

website – [Competitions page](#) , email [competitions@innovateuk.org](mailto:competitions@innovateuk.org) or phone the Competitions Helpline at 0300 321 4357.

9. To see all press releases from the Technology Strategy Board please visit the Press Centre at: [Press Centre](#).
10. To subscribe to the Technology Strategy Board's RSS newsfeed please visit: [RSS newsfeed](#).