



LowCVP's Andy Eastlake Joined up government: the 'Spectrum of Support'

Navigating your way around the different areas of support, grants, policies and incentives for the adoption of low carbon vehicles and fuels can be a challenge for anyone. Even working closely with government and many of the agencies tasked with accelerating the agenda, it can be hard for me to keep up with everything that's going on.

That's why the LowCVP has worked to play our part to bring different government and associated stakeholders together and has organised events, for example, to show SME innovators the range of organisations that can provide them with support at different stages on the innovation pathway.

I've just returned from this year's excellent Low Carbon Vehicle Event, run by Cenex (LCV2016). The event, held at Millbrook, is the UK's largest industry event to showcase the next generation of low carbon vehicles and fuels.

At LCV2016, the LowCVP participated in the 'UK Government Pavilion' in which all of the UK funding bodies supporting UK motor industry innovation came together to provide delegates with a 'one stop shop' to government and associated support bodies. The UK Pavilion housed almost the entire UK innovation support ecosystem, from blue sky academia and research support via the EPSRC and Innovate UK, through to commercialisation and in use policy development from OLEV.

In addition to the LowCVP, the Advanced Propulsion Centre (APC) and its 'spokes' brought a range of technology to show both physically and virtually; the new Centre for Connected & Autonomous Vehicles (CCAV) added the tantalising prospect of autonomous vehicles (several of which were on show around the event), and of course the Automotive Council and UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) represented the significant opportunities for UK industry from the burgeoning developments in low carbon vehicles.

Nick Hurd MP, the minister responsible for this agenda at the new Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) visited the UK Pavilion, providing a helpful further high level signal of the government's ongoing commitment to low carbon innovation and growth in the UK's automotive sector.

The Pavilion provided a good, practical demonstration of all the low carbon automotive support mechanisms working together to achieve our common goal of a – ultimately – decarbonised road transport sector and successful UK industry. It was helpful, too, on a practical level to renew – and make some new – contacts and to develop our shared thinking about collaboration on the way ahead.

There was a real sense of dynamic, even revolutionary, change taking place at this year's event, and I am confident that this government support is helping fuel the enthusiasm we see displayed at each of the *Greenfleet* events around the country where the fleets at the coal face are able to put these innovations to the ultimate test of true low carbon transport operation.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information on the Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership, visit: www.lowcvp.org.uk