

Electrification of Road Transport: A UK Stakeholder Group

This paper is presented to the Bus Working Group a) to invite expressions of interest for membership of a UK Stakeholder Group on the Electrification of Road Transport; and b) for comments on proposed seminar topics and content.

Background

The current LowCVP work programme includes a focus on developing a strategy for increasing the uptake of electric vehicles.

A strategy needs to address key issues associated with uptake. The availability of recharging infrastructure and its impact upon power distribution is seen as one of the key barriers to the development of a market for electric vehicles. UK opportunities within such a market and ensuring the market is sustainable is also critical. In addressing these issues LowCVP will build on the expert knowledge of its members and other stakeholders in addition to published studies. A BERR-led project conducted in association with CENEX is expected to address some of these issues and be published in October 08 and an important objective for the group will be to provide stakeholder review of the study.

Further areas of work for the LowCVP in 2009/10 are likely to be focused on implementing areas of the strategy and/or assisting its roll-out. This could for example be to look at strategies to encouraging fleets, local authorities and other public sector organisations (amongst others) to increase their purchase of low carbon / alternative fuel vehicles.

A UK Stakeholder Group

Engagement with UK stakeholders is a key element of developing and implementing a successful strategy. The LowCVP will co-ordinate a UK stakeholder group that will advise on and undertake specific areas of activity and provide guidance for the strategy development and implementation.

Expressions of interest from members to participate in the UK Stakeholder Group on Electrification of Road Transport are welcome. The expressions should be directed to the Secretariat at secretariat@lowcvp.org.uk. Initial expressions are welcomed by 23rd October 2008.

Seminars: Electrification of Road Transport

An initial objective will be to provide a common understanding of the issues and an evidence base for stakeholders. To this end the Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership (LowCVP) will organise a series of seminars beginning in November as a precursor to the development of a strategy for electric vehicle uptake in the UK.

Members are invited to comment on the content and/or proposed topics identified.

Four seminars are planned that cover key topics:

1. The role of technology
 - Technology roadmaps – shared vision?
 - GHG emissions & performance efficiencies (Life cycle analysis)
2. Creating a market
 - Market demand (user requirements, awareness, perception and experience)
 - Demand-side mechanisms – public and private initiatives
 - Regulation and standards
3. Infrastructure
 - Recharging Implications (national grid, recharging)
 - Maintenance infrastructure
 - Potential partnerships
4. Business Opportunities for UK plc
 - Does the UK have the potential to be a leading player
 - Maximising UK benefit in technology development
 - Cost effectiveness of developing in UK or abroad

It is intended that the seminars will combine strong technical information with clarity on key user group requirements and specific obstacles to uptake. This will provide a focus for a UK strategy for electric vehicle uptake which the LowCVP will feed into.