

Government drives funding of more than £109 million to driverless and low carbon projects across the UK...



- £109 million of government investment into 38 cutting-edge automotive research and development (R&D) projects
- seven low carbon vehicle projects set to receive a share of £62 million funding, safeguarding 2,370 jobs
- first winners of connected and autonomous vehicles (CAV2) competition set to receive £31 million

Business Secretary Greg Clark and Transport Minister John Hayes have today (11 April 2017) awarded £109.7 million of government funding, alongside significant funding from industry, to help develop the next generation of driverless and low-carbon vehicles, as part of the Industrial Strategy and the government's Plan for Britain.

Seven innovative projects will share grants from the latest round of funding from the Advanced Propulsion Centre (APC), the joint industry-government programme to put the UK at the forefront of low carbon vehicle technology.

The projects, led by BMW, CNH Industrial, Ford Motor Company, Jaguar Land Rover, Penso Consulting, Westfield Sportscars and Williams Advanced Engineering, cover a wide range of new innovations which will help the UK to continue to build on its excellence and become a global leader in low-emissions technology, and safeguard 2,370 jobs in the UK.

Successful schemes include:

- the development of a high power battery suitable for high-performance vehicles
- a project to address gaps in and strengthen the UK supply chain
- the development of the fuelling system for a concept gas tractor
- technologies to reduce the weight and improve electrification in SUV vehicle platforms

A further 7 projects have won funding from the government's Office for Low Emissions Vehicles (OLEV) to advance the development of a range of ultra-low and zero emissions vehicle technologies in the UK. These projects will be led by Equipmake, Ford Motor Company, Great British Sports Cars, Jaguar Land Rover, Ricardo Innovations, Romax Technology and Wrightbus.

In a fresh commitment to supporting these innovative technologies, the government is also announcing today that people buying an electric vehicle will continue to benefit from up to £4,500 off the cost of an ultra-low emission car, up to £2,500 off a hybrid and receive £500 towards the installation of a charge point in their home.

Innovate UK Chief Executive Ruth McKernan said:

These successful industry-led R&D projects will further spearhead UK development of low emission, and connected and autonomous vehicle technology, building on our world-leading research and innovation capability in this area and the significant strength of UK businesses large and small in this field.

ecsn Chairman Adam Fletcher said:

Your organisation may be able to collaborate and gain funding with other industry partners... If nothing else this scheme may enable identification and access to UK organisations developing new innovative products for this market..