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UK Government Hydrogen Strategy's Impact on Transport

The Advanced Propulsion Centre is funding development of next-generation hydrogen-powered vehicles.

To ensure that the UK effectively transitions to the point where vehicles produce zero tailpipe emissions, the Advanced Propulsion Centre is supporting the development of a range of technologies involving hydrogen, which is necessary for converting hard-to-decarbonise transport.

This includes long range and high-power demand vehicles like sports utility vehicles, vans, heavy goods vehicles, buses, and transport in locations without access to charging infrastructure.

Ahead of the government's highly anticipated hydrogen strategy, the Advanced Propulsion Centre's insight has identified four key areas necessary to drive adoption of low-carbon hydrogen vehicles (see also slide 1):

- **green hydrogen production,**
- **storage, handling, and distribution,**
- **refueling stations and infrastructure,**
- **and the continued development of vehicles and powertrains.**

By addressing these so-called value streams the transport sector can benefit from a strengthened supply chain and reduced costs of green hydrogen production. This ultimately makes hydrogen combustion and fuel cell technology a more economically viable alternative to fossil fuels.

Together with the drive to replace fossil fuels in other industrial sectors and domestic heating, growing demand for clean hydrogen energy will bring costs down significantly for all.

The UK already has a strong supply chain to build on, and is well positioned to capitalise and lead on further developing hydrogen products – and specifically green hydrogen – for use in transport.

The Advanced Propulsion Centre has mapped out production demand for fuel cell systems and on-board hydrogen tanks to produce light duty vehicles in the UK up until 2035 (slide 2 & 3).

There is an opportunity for large sports utility vehicles (SUVs), like the Jaguar Land Rover Defender, and commercial vans such as those made by Stellantis in Ellesmere Port, to benefit from an existing UK supply chain of raw materials and components to produce their fuel cell electric vehicles.

The Advanced Propulsion Centre forecasts the UK will need:

14 GW of fuel cell stack production and 400,000 high pressure carbon fibre tanks to meet local vehicle production demands by 2035.

Equal to about 140,000 cars and vans.

The Advanced Propulsion Centre, as a strategic link between government and industry, is the UK's leading organisation for developing, trialling, and supporting the industrialisation of hydrogen transport technologies. It funds several large-scale R&D projects that are laying the groundwork for the UK's decarbonised future transport system.

Companies involved include:

- Wrightbus (fuel cells for buses)
- Jaguar Land Rover Project Zeus (SUV fuel cell demonstrator)
- Intelligent Energy (scale-up of proton exchange membrane [PEM] fuel cell production)
- Arcola (integrating fuel cells in HGVs)

The Advanced Propulsion Centre can provide more information about these projects, hydrogen transport solutions and how they will benefit the drive to net zero.

When the hydrogen strategy is released, the Advanced Propulsion Centre can provide immediate reaction or quotes on what the current and future picture looks like for hydrogen in the UK.

For further information, to book an interview or for quotes:

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About the Advanced Propulsion Centre:

The Advanced Propulsion Centre (APC) collaborates with UK government, the automotive industry and academia to accelerate the industrialisation of technologies, supporting the transition to deliver net-zero emission vehicles.

Since its foundation in 2013, APC has funded 150 low-carbon projects involving 375 partners, working with companies of all sizes, and has helped to create or safeguard over 50,000 jobs in the UK. The technologies developed in these projects are projected to save over 260 million tonnes of CO₂, the equivalent of removing the lifetime emissions from 10.2 million cars.

With its deep sector expertise and cutting-edge knowledge of new propulsion technologies, APC's role in building and advising project consortia helps projects start more quickly and deliver increased value. In the longer term, its work to drive innovation and encourage collaboration is building the foundations for a successful and sustainable UK automotive industry.

In 2019 the UK government committed the Automotive Transformation Fund (ATF) to accelerate the development of a net-zero vehicle supply chain, enabling UK-based manufacturers to serve global markets. ATF investments are awarded through the APC to support strategically important UK capital and R&D investments that will enable companies

involved in batteries, motors and drives, power electronics, fuel cells, recycling, and associated supply chains to anchor their future.

For more information go to apcuk.co.uk or follow us @theapcuk on Twitter and Advanced Propulsion Centre UK on LinkedIn.